

Welcome to Year 1!

Staff



Kingfisher

Mrs Sadia Islam

Mrs Jennie Harrington

Mrs Helen James

Miss Danielle Manning



Wagtail

Miss Marianne Cresswell

Mrs Rachel McGuire

Mrs Emma Stollar

Mrs Kayleigh Darker

Our other members of staff: Mrs Liane Garcia, Mrs Jo Head, Mrs Rachel Blackie

Curriculum

- **Forest school** – Mrs Blackie (Wednesday)
- **RE** – Mrs Head (Wednesday)
- **Music** – Mrs Stollar (Wednesday)
- **Computing** – Mrs Islam and Miss Cresswell
- **PE** – Mr Jones
  - Wagtail Tuesday, Kingfisher Friday
    - Children with earrings should not wear these to school on PE days or bring in tape to cover them (if they cannot be removed)



Forest school rotation

- Wednesday afternoon
- Children will go to forest school once every three weeks
- Please ensure coats, uniform, wellies, shoes, forest school clothes and hats/gloves and scarves are **clearly labelled**.

Science

Autumn term

- Animals including humans

Spring term

- Everyday materials

Summer term

- Plants



Seasonal changes will be covered throughout the year.

History and Geography

Autumn term

- Geography - Why don’t penguins need to fly?
- History - Bonfire night, History of toys

Spring term

- History - Castles
- Geography - Where I live

Summer term

- History and Geography - Seaside Holidays



Art and DT

This alternates every term.

Art –

- We look at different artists.
- They complete their work in their sketchbooks.

DT –

- Moving Christmas cards (Winter)
- Fruit and Vegetables (Spring)
- Beach huts (Summer)

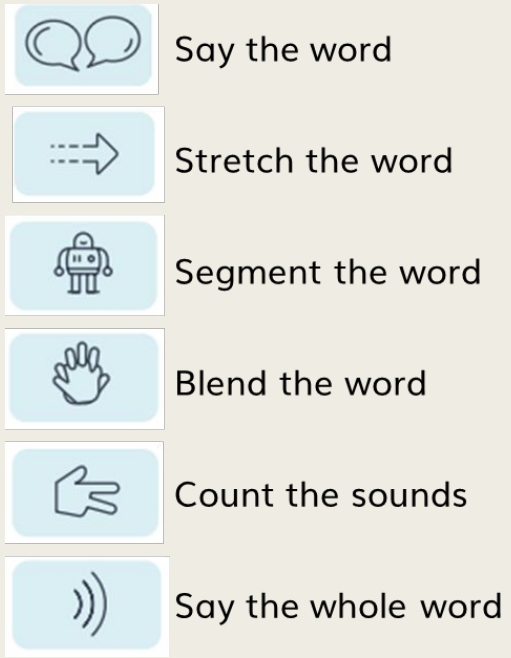
Example timetable

Kingfisher Wb 7.9.26	8:30-8:50	8:50 – 9:10	9.10-9.15	9.15-9.40	9:40-10.15	10.20 – 10.50	10.50 – 11.45	11.45 – 1:00	1:00 – 2:00		2:00 – 2.45	2.50 – 3.10
Monday SI	Register	KS1 Assembly	Handwriting	Phonics	**Daily mile & snack**	Rules, Introduction, settle in with SI	CIP	L U N C H	Maths fluency	PSHE/ Computing	CIP	Story
Tuesday SI	Register	Busy fingers Chatty writing Guided Reading	Handwriting	Phonics	**Daily mile & snack**	Rules, Introduction, settle in with SI	CIP		Maths fluency	Science	CIP	Story
Wednesday SI	Register	Busy fingers Chatty writing Guided Reading	Handwriting	Phonics	**Daily mile & snack**	English Whole school Poetry Unit	CIP **JH 11am-12 pm**		Forest School/PPA			
Thursday JH	Register	Busy fingers Chatty writing Guided Reading	Handwriting	Phonics	**Daily mile & snack**	English Whole school Poetry Unit	CIP		Maths fluency	Art	CIP	Story
Friday JH	Love for reading Register Bucket!	<u>Continue any:</u> Busy fingers Chatty writing Guided Reading	Handwriting	Phonics	**Daily mile & snack**	**10 - 11 PE with Mr Jones** / English Whole school Poetry Unit	CIP		Maths fluency	Geography	CIP	Story

The timetable will evolve through the year and some days may look different.

Phonics and reading

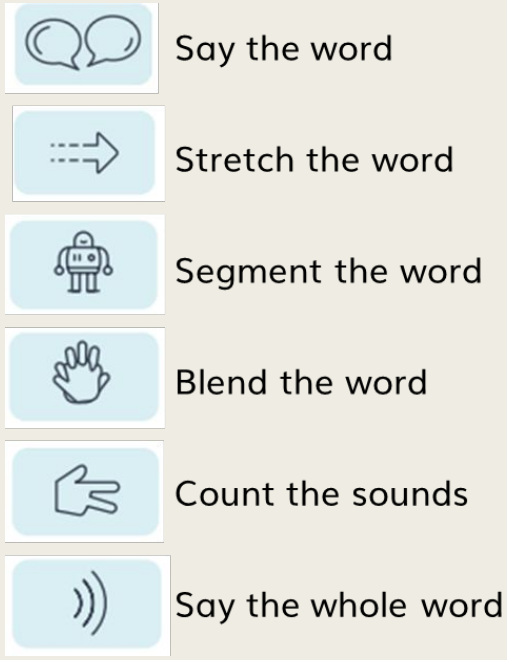
- Familiar scheme and lesson structure from Reception.
- We will change children's books once a week, this allows your child to re-read each text several times building their confidence and fluency.
- This is especially important as they begin to learn that the sounds within our language can be spelt in different ways.
- Children will also bring home a 'love to read' library book. They will need support reading these books as they are likely to contain graphemes we have not yet covered.
- Phonics meeting with parents: wednesday 23rd September



Year 1 phonics screening

- This is a statutory assessment at the end of Year 1.
- We will prepare children for the screening check discreetly.
- The check will take place on week commencing **Monday 14th June 2027**
- Please support your child with phonics at home, encourage your child to read around your home, whilst out shopping and during their home learning.
- Full details will be explained in the phonics screening parent workshop:
  - Pre-recorded to be released on week commencing **22nd February**
  - There will be an opportunity to submit questions after watching this.





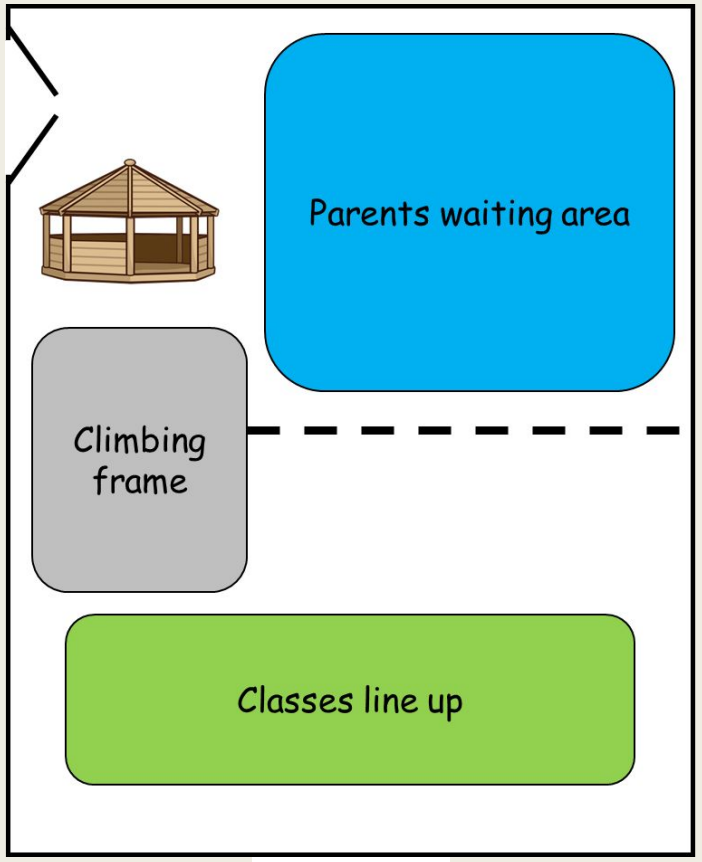
Belongings

- Coats are essential everyday please
- In good weather, hats are essential
- Wellies and waterproofs for forest school
- Please ensure belongings are all named
- We will encourage the children to take responsibility for their belongings – please reinforce this at home.



Please make sure everything is labelled.

Arrival





- We know the playground is busy at drop off.
- When the whistle is blown, children should line up **without** their adults.
- We would ask parents/carers to wait as far back as possible to ensure we can quickly and safely get the children into school.
- If you have an urgent message for teachers, please send an email to or call the office with your child's name and class so this can be passed on accordingly. Teachers may not see emails whilst they are teaching.
- At drop off we **cannot** take messages in person. We have to take children in promptly at 8.30am to ensure we vacate the playground for nursery and reception drop off. On assembly days, teachers also have to register the children by 8.45am to get to the hall on time.

Communication

At Bridgewater, we are committed to protecting the wellbeing of our staff in relation to their communication with parents. Parents are able to email teachers directly, which is an opportunity not all schools give to parents. While we are very happy to continue with this practice, because we think that it almost always yields positive results for parents, children and teachers, it has, on occasion, led to interactions that have been detrimental to the wellbeing of our teachers, due to the nature and content of emails sent to them.

We therefore ask that parents are responsible for:

- Ensuring that communication with the school is respectful at all times
- Making every reasonable effort to address communications to the appropriate member of staff in the first instance
- Responding to communications from the school (such as requests for meetings) in a timely manner
- Checking all communications from the school

Any communication that is deemed by the Headteacher to be disrespectful, abusive or threatening will result in a meeting between the sender and the Headteacher.

Parents should not expect staff to respond to their communication outside core school hours, or during school holidays. In the interests of their wellbeing and work-life balance, staff may choose to work around other responsibilities and commitments and respond to emails they receive outside school hours, but they are not expected to do so.

Parents are encouraged to send emails to staff during the school day, or to schedule emails to arrive during the school day. When staff receive emails late at night, it can adversely affect their wellbeing.

If an email is likely to need to be longer than two paragraphs, parents are encouraged to request a meeting rather than send a lengthy email.



Communication

- ‘On the day’ messages
  - Contact the office as we may not see emails whilst teaching.

- To contact us directly, please do so by email:

rachel.mcguire@bridgewater.herts.sch.uk
sadia.islam@bridgewater.herts.sch.uk
jennie.harrington@bridgewater.herts.sch.uk
marianne.cresswell@bridgewater.herts.sch.uk



We aim to acknowledge all emails within 2 working days, and to respond in full (or arrange a meeting or phone call if appropriate) within 5 working days.

If a query or concern is urgent, and you need a response sooner than this, please call the school.

Home learning

- **Phonics, English, Maths or creative learning task**
  - Task will build on learning covered in class
  - Set on Friday, returned by Tuesday
  - Spend no longer than 15/20 minutes completing this



- **Reading**
  - 10 minutes daily (please!)
  - Children will change books throughout the week when they read with an adult
  - Recorded in reading records

Mathletics

- Mathletics logins will be going home
- Content supports the Year 1 curriculum
- Children are more than welcome to access Mathletics at home to support their Maths learning in school
- Full demonstration at the virtual Maths information morning:
  - Thursday 2nd October 2025 check with Mrs Mould

Volunteers

- If we require any volunteers, we will email parents with specific requests via the class reps. We are very grateful for reading/ library volunteers!

- Sometimes this is to help during the school day (e.g. WOW days)
  - **A trip to Woburn Safari is being planned as our first WOW day.**

- Parents can also represent the class in one of the following roles:
  - Class rep
  - Parent forum rep
  - BSA rep

Please let us know if there are any changes to these roles



Attendance

Bridgewater Primary

Attendance at Bridgewater Primary School

At Bridgewater, we are committed to ensuring every child attends school regularly and feels safe, supported and ready to learn. We know that strong attendance is closely linked to academic success, emotional wellbeing and positive friendships.

We work in partnership with families to remove barriers to attendance and support children in developing positive, confident routines.

Why Attendance Matters

- Achieve their full academic potential
- Build confidence, independence and resilience
- Develop strong friendships and social skills
- Feel secure and part of the school community.

Missing school, even occasionally, can disrupt learning and increase anxiety, making it harder for children to re-engage over time.

Our Attendance Expectations

Bridgewater Primary

- We expect pupils to attend school **every day** unless they are genuinely unwell or there are exceptional circumstances.
- If you're unsure whether your child is well enough to attend school, please read the NHS guidance Is my child too ill for school? for helpful advice on common symptoms and when to keep your child at home.
- **Expected attendance is 96% or above** in line with national guidance.
- Parents and carers have a **legal responsibility** to ensure their child attends school regularly and on time.
- Only the headteacher can authorise absences.

Understanding Attendance Levels

- Good attendance: 96% and above
- Persistent absence: below 90%
- Severe absence: below 50%.

If a child's attendance begins to fall, we will make contact early to offer support and work together to prevent the situation from escalating.

Attendance lead: Mrs Alexander.

Bridgewater Primary



Notifying us of daily absences or change of collection arrangements.

Please report on the day **absences** on the **Arbour app** and not by emailing the class teacher. Click the 3 horizontal lines at the bottom left of your child's home screen and select 'attendance' to log a daily absence. Please do this before **8:30am**.

If there is going to be a **change of arrangements for collecting** a child, please fill in the form on the **website** by **3pm** on the day. After that time, please call the office.

Travel

To keep our school community safe and ease congestion around the gates, please keep these guidelines in mind if you drive:

- **Use the Drop-Off Zone:** If you need to drive, please utilize the KS2 drop-off zone to keep traffic moving smoothly.
- **Park Considerately:** Respect our neighbors and avoid blocking driveways, pavement crossings, or access points.
- **Park and Stride:** Consider parking a short distance away and walking the remaining few minutes to drop off your child.
- **Try the Rear Gate:** The rear gate is open and often provides a quieter, less congested alternative.
- The car park is closed to parents from 0745-1630

□

Questions and feedback

- Feel free to ask any questions you may have.
- When leaving the school, please leave your feedback about this meet the teacher event.

