



Newsletter: 7th November 2025

Message from the Headteacher

Welcome Back! We hope you all had a restful and enjoyable half-term break. You will have received a letter introducing an exciting new project aimed at transforming our lunchtime playtimes. Over the next 18 months, we'll be working closely with our OPAL mentor to create a truly enriching and joyful play experience for all our children. To help us get started, please take a few moments to complete the questionnaire—your input is vital to our baseline audit. And don't forget to check out the first of our 'shout outs' to see how you might be able to help! Looking ahead, next week is Anti-Bullying Week. We'll be kicking things off with Odd Socks Day on Monday to celebrate what makes us all unique, followed by a week of assemblies and activities promoting the powerful message of kindness and respect: *Power for Good*.

Reminder

Application deadlines for requesting school places are as follows:

January 15th 2026 - Primary School applications

Applications should be made on the following link:

https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20071/school_places_and_admissions

Christmas Card Project

Children will be coming home with an order form for their Christmas card/gifts today. Should you wish to place an order please follow the instructions on the order form and place orders by **20th November**.

Bridlewood Primary School Facebook Page



Keep up to date with upcoming and past events on our school [Facebook page](#)!

Please like and follow and feel free to share with other family members too!

House points for this week!

Blunsdon: 59



Liddington: 58



Silbury: 73



Uffington: 77



Well done to Uffington for being this week's winners!

Our Core Value this term is Respect
Our Assembly Theme this term is Humility



Poppy Appeal

Last few chances to purchase poppies which are on sale until Remembrance Day. Our Year 6 pupils will be visiting classes selling poppies and poppy appeal merchandise such as snap bands, festival wrist bands, reflective poppies and stickers. These items will be available for a donation, suggested as £1. There are also 2025 poppy pin badges and these will be available for £3 each. All money raised will go to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

SCHOOL WEBSITE / FACEBOOK PAGE

Need to find out what is going on in class? Can't find your copy of the newsletter? Want to view the latest gallery?

You can find all this on: www.bridlewoodprimaryschool.org.uk or [Facebook page](#)

Diary Dates

10/11/25	Anti-bullying Week - Odd Socks Day
11/11/25	Y4 Viking Day at Oxenwood
12/11/25	Y3 Living Rainforest trip
12/11/25	Y5/6 Author visit to APS
14/11/25	Children In Need - Non Uniform
18/11/25	School Flu Vaccinations
19/11/25	Nursery parent/carers consultation—online
26/11/25	3.30 - 4.30pm - Parent Book Look
28/11/25	Discovery Day - International Day
01/12/25	Advent Assembly
05/12/25	Y1 Teddy Bear Picnic
17/12/25	Christmas Lunch - details to follow on how to book

Best Start in Life

The Best Start in Life is a Government campaign to increase awareness of the importance of early years in a child's development and the role of early years education. The website brings together trusted advice, support and guidance for parents.

The Best Start in Life parent hub replaces the Childcare Choices website.

For further information see the Best Start in Life website [here](#).



Odd Sock Day

This marks the start of anti bullying week on 10th November celebrating difference. Please come to school wearing your odd socks that day (usual school uniform applies).



Children in Need



On 14th November we will have a non-uniform day for a donation to Children in Need!

(Please note amended date to that previously published in our diary dates)



Free KS2 learning support



We're pleased to let you know that Bridlewood Primary School has partnered with [Atom Learning](#) to provide free KS2 learning to primary school children who are eligible for Pupil Premium. **Eligible students will receive access to Atom Home for free (normally £575.90 a year).** Atom Learning is a viable, more child-centric alternative to private tuition that we believe is a non-stressful and enjoyable way of making progress at KS2 and, when relevant, preparing for exams. A 5-day free trial of Atom available for non-PP families. **The [application link](#) can be found on our school website.**



Our OPAL Journey Begins!

We're excited to announce that we're beginning our OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) journey! This fantastic project will help us create richer, more imaginative play opportunities for our children — but we need your help to make it happen.

This week, we're collecting old waterproofs and wellies to support all-weather play. Collection buckets for these items will be available at the gates during drop-off and collection from next week.

We're also on the lookout for a carpenter who can help us create some storage items. If you're handy with wood and willing to lend a hand, please email HillikerD@Bridlewood.org.uk

Together, let's make outdoor play amazing!

Parent/Carer Group: Helping your Child with Anxiety

Run by practitioners from Be U Swindon

*Are you worried about your child's anxiety?
Do they often feel scared, overwhelmed, or avoid
certain situations?*

Be U Swindon are running a supportive parent/carers group based on the trusted approach from Cathy Creswell's 'Helping your Child with Fears and Worries'.

Who is it for?

- Parents/carers of primary-age children experiencing anxiety, worries or avoidance behaviours.

What you'll gain:

- Understand how anxiety develops and what keeps it going
- Evidence-based strategies to help your child manage anxiety
- Build your confidence as a parent/carers
- Share experiences with others

Where / When:

- 6 online sessions accessed via Teams
- Tuesday afternoons from 1-2.30pm
- Starting Tuesday 11th November 2025

We will be running more groups in future so if you are unable to make these specific dates, please still refer and make us aware of this.

How to refer:

- Scan the QR code or visit our website (beuswindon.co.uk/referrals) to access our referral form and state you are interested in this group.
- Referrals will be reviewed by the Be U Swindon team to ensure this group is the most appropriate form of support for your family. If another type of support is more suitable, we will contact about this.

Scan to refer



GOLDEN TICKET

Find the Golden Ticket stuck to the bottom of your tray for a special treat!

November 17th – 28th
Join us for lunch and you could be a daily Golden Ticket Winner !!



Have Your Say on Being a Parent and Carer in Swindon



We want to hear from parents and carers in Swindon to understand the challenges you're facing and how services can better support you and your family.

Your views will help shape future services for families in the local area. Scan the QR code to take part – it's quick, anonymous, and makes a real difference.



Closing date:
18 November

letstalk.swindon.gov.uk/parentingsupport



BRANCHES SUPPORT GROUP EVERYONE WELCOME

Tel: 07486 873405
Email: swindonsendfamiliesvoice@outlook.com



BRANCHES is a support group open to all parents and carers of children and young people with any Special Educational Need or Disability, aged 0-25 years



BRANCHES is a free support group, however voluntary donations for refreshments are welcomed

PARTNERSHIPS FOR INCLUSION OF NEURODIVERSITY IN SCHOOLS COMMUNITY EVENT

Information Session with Kirk Anderson

We are delighted to be hosting an event with Kirk Anderson, who will be running a session on Understanding Challenging Behaviour in Neurodivergent Children.

WHEN?

Monday 24th
November

WHERE?

Punjabi
Community
Centre Gorse Hill

TIME?

10am-12pm

Who is this event for?

- Parents of children with diagnosed or undiagnosed conditions, it is aimed at supporting parents/carers and how they can help their neurodivergent children at home
- Professionals or volunteers who work with children or young people with SEND.

In attendance;

Kirk Anderson is a Learning Disability Nurse with 30 years' experience of working with autistic young people and those with a learning disability. He is currently the Specialist Keyworker in the ICB's Keyworker service, working with autistic young people and those with a learning disability, up to the age of 25, who are at risk of a mental health admission.

