



Bridlewood Primary School

Newsletter: 18th September 2026

Update from Headteacher

Earlier this week, Maple Class enjoyed their residential visit to Oxenwood, where they took part in a variety of exciting activities, including orienteering, paddle boarding, archery, problem-solving challenges, climbing and shelter building. The children behaved brilliantly throughout the trip and showed great resilience, teamwork and independence during their time away from home. A huge thank you to Mrs McLaughlin, Mrs Helsby and Mrs Ash for taking the children away and making the experience such a success.

It was also wonderful to see so many children taking part in the new clubs that started this week. There are still spaces available, so please encourage your child to sign up if they would like to join. Contact the office to enquire.

The children have now settled well into their new class routines and are thoroughly enjoying their Autumn Term topics. Please remember that all curriculum plans and overviews can be found on the school website.

End of School Day

The gates open at 3.10pm ready for school finishing at 3.15pm. Please ensure your child is collected promptly at this time. If you have arranged for another person to collect your child, please inform the class teacher in the morning or the school office as soon as possible.

National Read-Aloud Challenge Finalist

We're delighted to share that Bridlewood has been shortlisted as a finalist in this year's National Read-Aloud Challenge for the South West region!

Congratulations to everyone who took part over the summer. You should be so proud of what you've achieved.



Our Core Value this term is Respect

Our Assembly Theme this term is Respect

House Points this week!

Blunsdon: 122



Liddington: 107



Silbury: 138



Uffington: 125



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

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 our website www.bridlewoodprimaryschool.org.uk or our [Facebook page](#)

Diary Dates

- 23/09/26 How we learn in Reception workshop 9am in school
28/09/26 Year 6 Pencelli Residential
06/10/26 Doing it for Dan Run
07/10/26 Individual and sibling photos
09/10/26 Harvest Assembly
14/10/26 Parent consultations - school finishes at 1.20pm, Nursery open as usual
19/10/26 Y6 Coleshill Trip
20/10/26 Discovery Day - Black History
23/10/26 Inset day - school and nursery closed
25/10/26 PTA Meeting 3.30pm (see below)
w/c 26/10/26 Half Term Break
02/11/26 Term 2 Starts
09/11/26 Odd Sock Day
11/11/26 Remembrance Day
13/11/26 Children in Need
16/11/26 Inset day - school and nursery closed
23/11/26 YR-Y6 Flu Vaccinations
25/11/26 Discovery Day - International Day
25/11/26 Parent Book Look 3.30-4.30pm

Packed Lunches

We have seen an increase of parents/carers sending in their children with a packed lunch when a school meal has been ordered. This causes unnecessary waste and cost to the school. Please only book school meals if your child is having them. You are able to amend bookings made in advance and these can be done by midnight on Thursdays for the following week. You are also able to check what you have booked on ParentPay, or contact the office if you are unsure.

Nut Free School

A polite reminder that we are a nut free school as we have pupils with nut allergies. Please can you check and ensure that snacks and sandwich fillings are nut free, including no Nutella.
Thank you for your cooperation.



Are you eligible?

As you may be aware, from September this year there have been changes to **Free School Meals**. Please read this [letter](#) and if you believe you may be eligible to apply, please do so as soon as possible.

Targeted eligibility

Your child may qualify if your household receives Universal Credit and your annual household earnings are £7,400 or less.

Expanded eligibility

Your child may qualify if your household receives Universal Credit and your annual household earnings are more than £7,400.

Other benefits that may qualify

Your child may also be eligible if your household receives the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you are not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- No recourse to public funds

Even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and receives universal free meals you may be still be entitled to targeted free school meals which means the school receives additional funding to help with resources and trips. You can apply now:

https://www.swindon.gov.uk/info/20050/schools_and_learning/408/free_school_meals

Lost Items

We have seen an increase in items being misplaced without names. Please ensure **all** belongings and clothing are **labelled with your child's name**. This will ensure it will make it's way back to your child. We do not keep a lost property so all items should be named to ensure they can be returned.



Please support Swindon Food

Bank this

HARVEST

During 2025, Swindon Food Collective provided over 90,000 meals to our local community. Demand continues to rise, each year, so if you are able to, please donate any of the following items this harvest season.

Thank you.

From Swindon, For Swindon.

WHAT WE NEED MOST:

TINNED MEALS (CURRY, MEATBALLS ETC)

TINNED MEAT

TINNED FISH

TINNED POTATOES

TINNED VEGETABLES

PASTA SAUCE

LONG LIFE MILK

RICE PUDDING, CUSTARD

SMALL PACKS OF TEA/COFFEE

SHAMPOO & CONDITIONER

SHOWER GEL

TOOTHPASTE

HOUSEHOLD CLEANING ITEMS



Harvest Celebration – Food Bank Collection

On Friday 9th October we will be hosting our Harvest celebration. We will be considering this through our whole school assembly and collecting for the local food bank. Children are invited to bring their donation in on the 9th October. Please see adjacent poster for items most in need.

Donations should be brought into school on the morning of Friday 9th October.

Thank you for your support!

Term Dates

Please note the [2026/27](#) and now [2027/28](#) term dates are both available on our website. Please use these when planning your family breaks and holidays to avoid disruption during the school terms.

Doing it for Dan



We are all looking forward to completing our charity 'Do it for Dan' run, which will take place on Tuesday 6th October. To make the event a success, we are looking for more volunteers to either run alongside the children or to marshal our route. If you are able to help, please email Miss Hulse on hulsej@bridlewood.org.uk.

Reminder

Application deadlines for requesting school places are as follows:

- 31st October 2026 – Secondary School applications
- 15th January 2027 – Primary School applications

Applications should be made on the following link:

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

Diary Date Reminder

On Wednesday 14th October school will finish at 1.20pm for parent consultation meetings. Nursery will remain open as usual. There will be no clubs this date.

Look out for details on how to book next week.

Free Arts and Crafts

For young people living in
St Andrews Parish

 Redhouse Community Centre

 28th October 2026

 1:30-2:30pm and 3-4pm

 Children must be accompanied by an adult

 Only 25 spaces available



Join the PTA – Make a Difference!

Are you passionate about your child's education and eager to build a stronger school community?

The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is looking for enthusiastic new members to bring fresh ideas, energy, and support! Whether you have a little time or a lot, your involvement matters. Come along and be part of something special.

Next Meeting: Friday 25th September at 3.30pm (children are welcome to come along).

Email: pta@bridlewood.org.uk

6 REASONS TO JOIN OUR PTA!

FOR THE CHILDREN

BECOME A ROLE MODEL TO SHOW YOUR CHILD YOU VALUE THEIR EDUCATION.

THE EVENTS WE PLAN WILL IMPROVE YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL EXPERIENCE.



FOR YOU

VOLUNTEERING IS A REWARDING EXPERIENCE

WE PLAN TO HOST MANY SOCIAL EVENTS TO RAISE MONEY AND ALSO TO ENJOY EACH OTHERS COMPANY.



FOR THE SCHOOL

HELP THE SCHOOL TO RAISE FUNDS.

HAVE A VOICE IN THE PURCHASES THAT ARE MADE TO SUPPORT THE CHILDREN.



BE CONNECTED

THERE IS NO BETTER WAY OF KNOWING WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SCHOOL.

MEET OTHERS THAT SHARE THE SAME COMMON GOALS TO HELP IMPROVE THE SCHOOL.



IT IS FUN!

WE AIM TO ENJOY OURSELVES IN ALL OUR ROLES.

FROM PLANNING EVENTS TO RUNNING A STALL IS EXCITING!



KEEP THE PTA GOING

AS PARENTS LEAVE SCHOOL WE NEED TO KEEP THE COMMITTEE GOING.

COME JOIN OUR FRIENDLY TEAM AS MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!



Are you interested in becoming a Governor?

Governors play a vital role in supporting the strategic direction of the school and ensuring it reflects the values and vision of The Park Academies Trust.

While the role is voluntary, it is incredibly rewarding, offering the opportunity to make a tangible difference in your community and positively impact the lives of children.

Bridlewood is a popular school, with a committed team of staff, working hard for the children in our care. We are proud of our happy, caring and supportive environment and we encourage children to develop a love of learning whilst also upholding our strong core values of respect, responsibility and honesty.

As a Governor, you will help monitor progress, champion the voices of pupils, parents, and staff, and contribute to the school's strategic direction. We are committed to increasing the diversity of our Local Governing Committee. We want our governance to reflect the communities we serve and to benefit from a wide range of perspectives, lived experiences, and professional backgrounds. We warmly encourage applications from parents who may not have served in a governance role before — full support and training will be provided.

Acting as a critical friend you will be providing an essential role for the local school and the wider multi-academy trust. By becoming a Governor, you will find the interaction between the Trust Board and school is extremely rewarding.

If you can give approximately six hours per month, attend one termly meeting on a Monday evening, and are interested in supporting your local school, please make contact with us.

Interested?

Please send an email to:
clerk@bridlewood.org.uk