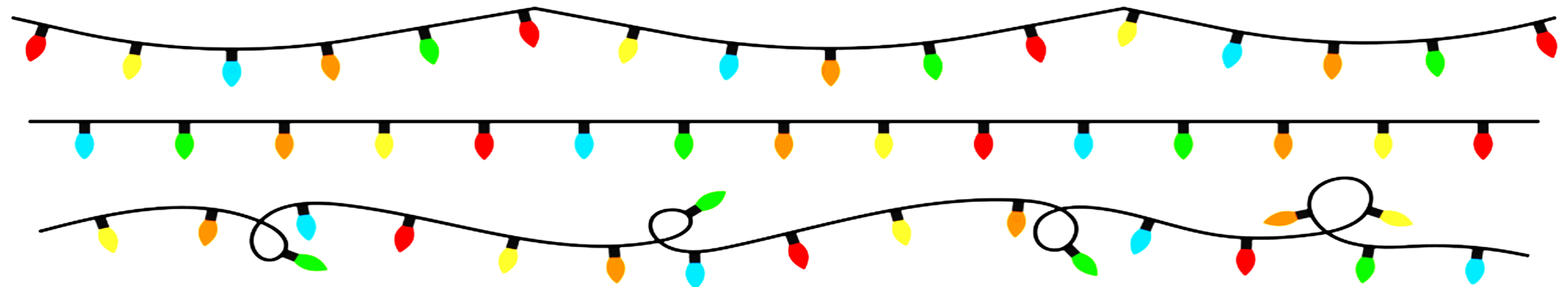


The background is a dark green field filled with stylized Christmas trees of varying shades of green. Each tree is decorated with small white and yellow stars, and strings of colorful lights (red, blue, yellow, and white). At the top, a string of larger, multi-colored lights hangs across the frame. In the corners, there are sprigs of holly with red berries and green leaves. The overall atmosphere is warm and celebratory.

Bridgelea Newsletter

Autumn 2024



A Message from our Head Teacher

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 palpable throughout the school, with our children embracing a wide range of enriching opportunities.

Our commitment to holistic education has seen children participating in Bikeability sessions, honing their cycling skills and road safety awareness. They've also cast their lines in fishing activities, learned vital first aid skills, and engaged in important discussions about the dangers of vaping and knife crime. These experiences not only broaden their horizons but also equip them with crucial life skills.

Our children's worlds have expanded beyond the classroom walls with trips to the cinema, Contact Theatre, and Crucial Crew, as well as exhilarating cycling expeditions. These outings have provided valuable real-world learning experiences, fostering curiosity and social skills.

I'm thrilled to share that we've introduced two exciting new schemes this term. Our 'Talk for Writing' programme is already making waves in developing our children's writing abilities, while our new Science scheme is igniting a passion for scientific inquiry and discovery.

Our dedicated staff have also been enhancing their skills, completing Staff Safety training to better support and de-escalate challenging behaviours, ensuring a safe and nurturing environment for all.

We have much to celebrate! I'm delighted to announce that Bridgelea has achieved the Silver Arts Mark and has been recognised as a Silver Skills Builder School. These accolades reflect our commitment to providing a rich, diverse curriculum that nurtures creativity and essential life skills.

Our Harmful Sexualised Behaviour Service has received a national award for its outstanding work supporting children across Manchester, a testament to the vital role Bridgelea plays in our wider community.

As we look ahead to 2025, we're excited to introduce a new E-Safety scheme in January called '2BeSafe - Being Safe in a Digital World', reinforcing our commitment to keeping our children safe online.

We look forward to welcoming parents into school to celebrate Christmas and their child's learning this term. Please note the following dates:

Monday 16th: Middle Floor & Withington, Tuesday 17th: Ground Floor, Wednesday 18th: Top Floor, Thursday 19th December: Children's Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day

Lastly, we bid a fond farewell to Ed Warren, one of our brilliant teachers, as he embarks on a new adventure in Australia. We also say goodbye to Holly Barton, Saskia Farrow, Bernadette Wheelan and Jamal Riysat our fantastic TAs. We would like to say thank you for your passion and dedication, and we wish you all the very best.

As always, I'm immensely proud of our Bridgelea family - the resilience, creativity, and spirit of our children, the dedication of our staff, and the support of our parents and carers. Together, we continue to make Bridgelea a truly special place.

Ash

We had a brilliant time celebrating Halloween this Year! We carved our very own pumpkins and completed a Spooky science experiment with all of them. All of the children listened really well and followed instructions. We were so proud! Look how amazing they turned out!

We also were able to go to Simply Cycling! All of the children were absolutely amazing at riding the bikes and keeping safe. A few of our children even learnt how to ride the bikes without stabilizers! Well done Ash Class!



Ash

Ash Class have been looking at the Oceans of the world and where they belong on a world map. They have also been learning about the different places that make up the United Kingdom; they have been looking at Human made VS Natural made aspects of these different places and how to identify them.

We also had so much fun in our reward time this term! Dressing up for role-play and creating the biggest train tracks you have ever seen. Lots of our break times spent making habitats for the insects in our play ground which the children loved too.

In Maths, we have been working on our number and place value skills such as developing fast recognition of up to 5 objects without having to count them, comparing numbers and quantities up to 10, and understanding one more and one less. In addition and subtraction, we have been getting better at automatically recalling number bonds, recalling double facts, and exploring odd and even numbers to 10. We have enjoyed working practically with our concrete Numicon resources.



Birch

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.

The children demonstrated great team work and resilience when visiting Simply Cycling. Each session, we could see individual children showing improvements, trying new cycles and giving out tips and encouragement to others. They loved whizzing round the track, shouting 'look at me', waving for the camera and just being outside in the fresh air.

For many children, this visit was a particular highlight as they had not experienced the cinema before. The children were in awe at the size of the screen, the sheer volume that the movie was played in and the fact that there were so many other children watching too. Whilst in the cinema, the behaviour of the children was amazing and they were a credit to themselves. They have since asked if we can go on another visit to the cinema again!

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 Elmer work the children have been painting, printing and using collage materials. 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!

We are committed to providing enriching and engaging experiences that contribute to your child's individual development. Thank you for your continued support and encouragement. Birch Class Team wish you a happy holiday and we can't wait to welcome your child back in January!



Cedar

Cedar class have had a brilliant term! They have immersed themselves in everything they have done and have shown what an amazing class they are.

We thoroughly enjoyed our 'Hello Yellow' day where we thought about all the things that make us happy and all the things that make us amazing. Cedar class came up with words such as 'strong', 'brave', 'beautiful' and 'loved' to describe themselves. They definitely have all those qualities.

They have enjoyed showing off their musical skills with Jenny on Fridays. From making funky music, to playing along to Christmas songs, Cedar class have shown how musical they are. They have developed their skills on the Ukulele and can play along to the rhythm We loved our trip to Longsight library this term where the children immersed themselves into all different kinds of books. They listened to a funny story and even got to choose their own book to take home.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Cedar class x



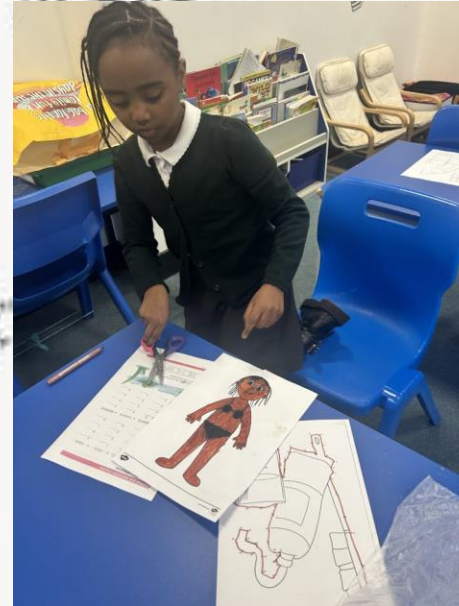
Damson

Damson class have worked really hard this term.

Transitioning over from Withington have been a real success. The children have continued to make progress and have fun as they have settled at Longsight. The children have loved Special Lunches and Nurture, Art, PE and especially Forest School.

The trip to watch Paddington 3 was a great experience especially with the posh chair seats!!

Well done to everyone this term.



Elm

Elm have been doing amazing English based on the story The Good Little Wolf. We use actions and created story maps to help us remember the story. We then change the characters to make our own stories and we wrote these during our BIG write session.

In Maths we have finished our unit on multiplication and division and have now moved onto fractions. We have been finding $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ of amounts and we have learnt that $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{2}{4}$ are equivalent fractions.

We have loved Forest school this half term and we have made our own arrows using sticks and slate. We added feathers to help us aim and so they could fly better. We then used a real bow and arrow and practiced shooting at a target. Our favorite thing to cook has been smores, but we have also enjoyed cooking toast and hot dogs.

We had a fantastic trip to the cinema this half term - it was our first trip as a class and we were all superstars. We watched Paddington in Peru.



Fir & Nutmeg

We have also been on an exciting trip to the cinema all the way in Altrincham. We travelled there on the buses and it took quite a bit of time but we stayed patient. We were very excited and had a great time! We remembered to take a drink and some yummy sweet snacks with us!

Some of us even went to visit the library and chose some books to bring back to school and enjoy.

Our class have been involved in a project involving making bows and arrows as part of our Forest School sessions. We worked very hard to listen and follow instructions to make sure we stayed safe at all times. We needed to follow the health and safety rules, especially when we were sitting around the fire and toasting marshmallows when making smores! We had so much fun and we were very proud of our work.



Lime

Library Trip: This term, we enjoyed a fantastic visit to the local library, where the children explored new books and learned about how libraries work.

Fire Safety Assembly: We had an informative fire safety assembly, teaching the children important tips to stay safe and what to do in an emergency.

Halloween Arts and Crafts: Creativity was in full swing during our Halloween arts and crafts session, with the children making spooky decorations and costumes.

Cinema Trip: To round off the term, we had an exciting trip to the cinema, where everyone enjoyed a fun film and a shared experience outside the classroom.



Maple

We have all been very busy in Maple class since September. We have been getting to know each other as we were all new to Bridgelea in September. We have been finding out about and our likes and dislikes.

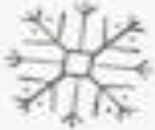
We have worked very hard with our reading and have set ourselves some ambitious reading targets, reading thousands of words before Christmas. Some of us met our targets early and had to set new ones.

We were able to learn new skills by external visitors such as the fishing company. This allowed the children to work both as a team and individually while delving into a new skill!

The class had been able to celebrate children's birthdays in class! With our 'play your cards right' afternoon where the children can have a more relaxed afternoon, enjoying party games! It has also been amazing by turning our classroom into a circus, which allowed the children to decorate the classroom as a team and plan posters where they can display their own talents!



Maple



We have been on a trip to the park where we worked on our team building and listening skills. We have learned that we need to bring drinks with us next time as some of us got very hot running round the park.


We have also been on a trip to the cinema all the way in Altrincham. We thought about keeping safe while travelling and were very well behaved in public. We did remember to bring some drinks and snacks this time. We had popcorn, kitkats and water.

Manchester University Occupational Therapist students have been working with us to develop sensory activities into our classroom daily routine. They have been working with some of our children to help address their sensory needs, which have been beneficial in helping our children to be ready to learn.

Regulation strategies are key to helping our children when they become dysregulated. We have been practising some breathing and movement techniques which can help our children when they need it most. Some children have introduced us to strategies that have helped them in the past and we are adding them to our regulation toolkit.

A visiting artist came to do some work with us, helping us improve our drawing skills. We created 3D images of the initials of our names. We created great masterpieces.

Jenny our visiting music teacher came each week to help us learn about rhythm, improve our listening skills and knowledge of instruments. Joseph was amazing and even had a 1:1 session with Jenny drumming.



TRACE EIGHT

Pretend that your pointer finger is an imaginary pencil, and you are going to trace the number 8 in the air, on the table, or on your leg.

As you slowly trace the top part of the number 8, breathe in through your nose.

Then as you slowly trace the bottom part of the number 8, breathe out through your mouth.

Try repeating the Trace Eight breathing exercise a few more!



FIRE HANDS

Bring your arms in front of you and rub the palms of your hands together, back and forth, as quickly as you can.

Notice the sensations in your hands and arm muscles. Focus on the strength and heat you are creating.

When you feel the warmth, close your eyes. And in silence, place your hands gently on top of your head.

Pay attention to the transfer of warm energy between your hands and head.

Slowly bring your arms to your side.

Notice how your body feels as you spend a few quiet, still moments just focused on breathing in and breathing out.



Oak

The children in Oak class love Maths.

This term, we have looked at lots of methods to add, subtract, multiply, and divide. We have enjoyed learning how to solve the perimeter of different shapes. We used the Cuisenaire rods and number tracks to help us.

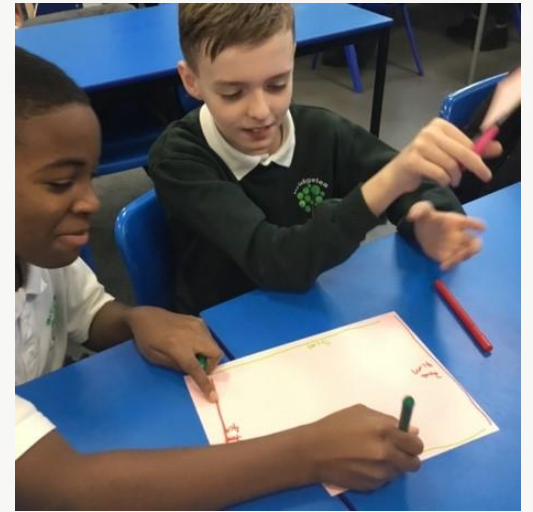
We have learnt so many skills at swimming this term. Lots of children have received their 10m, 25m and 50m swimming certificates. The children were very proud of themselves! In one of our final sessions, we have learnt about water safety. We got to swim wearing our pyjamas! It was lots of fun and we learnt how to keep safe in the water.

In music, we played lots of instruments that Jenny brought along. We have played along to different types of music on the ukulele. We also recommended our favourite types of music to Jenny! Our favourite lesson was when we used the boom whackers. We listened to Christmas songs and played along to the beat. Jenny showed us different ways we could use the boom whackers. Thank you for our amazing music lessons, Jenny!

Oak class have had a fantastic term! They have a brilliant learning attitude and work hard in every lesson. They are resilient and like to challenge themselves. The children work well together and are role models at Bridgelea. They respect the rights of others and themselves.

I hope they have an amazing two weeks off and I look forward to seeing them after the holidays.

Rokaya, Ruckhsana, Kevin, Oliver and Asiya.



Pine



The children in Pine class had an exciting visit to the library, where they explored shelves filled with books of all genres. They eagerly picked out their favourites, from colourful picture books to captivating chapter books, and spent time reading quietly or sharing stories with their friends. The librarian guided them on how to find books, use the catalogue, and care for borrowed items. Many discovered new interests, sparking their curiosity and love for reading. It was a joyful experience that left them eager to return and continue their literary adventures.

The Pine class has been visiting the contact centre to produce some amazing beats as part of their music lessons. They explored different instruments and learned how to use music technology to create unique rhythms and sounds. Guided by experts, the children experimented with layering beats, mixing tracks, and expressing their creativity through music. The sessions were not only fun and engaging but also helped build their confidence and teamwork skills. Their enthusiasm and talent shone brightly, and they can't wait to share their creations with others!

In geography, the children have been learning about climate change and its impact on the planet. They explored topics such as global warming, rising sea levels, and extreme weather patterns, understanding how human activity contributes to these changes. Through discussions, videos, and hands-on activities, they discovered the importance of reducing carbon footprints, protecting natural habitats, and adopting sustainable practices. The class also brainstormed small changes they could make in their daily lives to help the environment, fostering a sense of responsibility and empowerment to make a difference.

This term in swimming, Pine class has been learning vital life-saving skills to help someone in danger of drowning. They practiced how to stay calm in emergency situations and learned techniques such as throwing rescue aids, calling for help, and ensuring their own safety while assisting others. The children also discussed the importance of water safety, understanding how to spot hazards and prevent accidents. These lessons not only built their confidence in the water but also equipped them with essential skills that could one day save a life.



Rowan

Rowan have been doing amazing English based on the stories Hidden Figures and The Lost Happy Endings. We use graphic templates like mind maps, roles on the wall and story mountains to help plan and write texts related to the stories we have read. This term we have written a Newspaper report, advertisements, and alternate ending stories, taking inspiration from other authors.

In Science we have been exploring and experimenting with light and it's properties. We made a periscope, a Thaumatrope, and optical illusions. We have seen that light in different mediums makes your eyes see different things. In Maths we have finished our unit on multiplication and division and fractions and have now moved on to money. We have been finding different ways to make amounts of money, adding money and finding amounts of change. We have enjoyed using the coins to make representations of the problems we are solving.

We had a fantastic trip to the cinema this half term as a class and we were all absolutely amazing. We enjoyed some popcorn and a KitKat while watched Despicable Me 4.

We have loved the Contact Theatre this half term and we have made our own music using LogicPro software. We added layers to beats to create a melody and explored different instruments to make different sounds.



Rowan

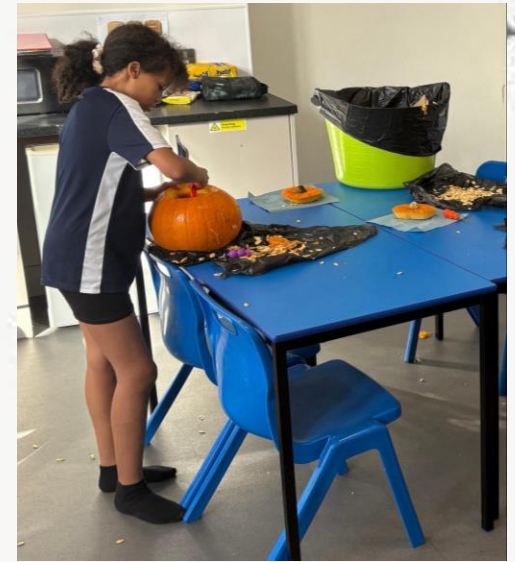
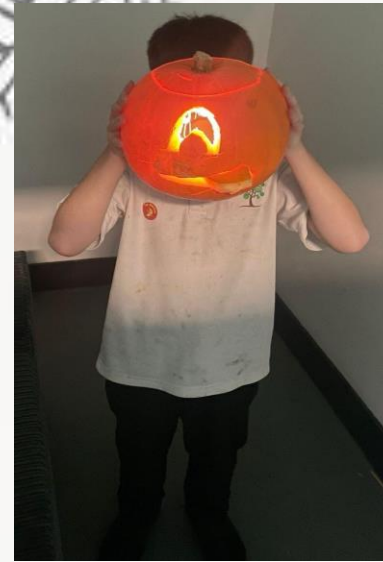


Willow

These are the pictures from Halloween and one from our music lesson for Willow class.

Willow class got stuck in with pumpkin carving for Halloween!

Willow class have enjoyed their music lessons and learning how to play the ukulele.



Yew

Yew class have had a busy first term back, we have enjoyed our swimming sessions achieving great milestones of swimming 25 meters. We have enjoyed learning about the Maya civilisation and how some of their knowledge is still used to this day. And learning about our ever-changing population and how and why people migrate to different countries. We have looked at the book hidden figures in our English lessons and learning that computers used to be mathematicians and not the computers that we know today. In science we have been focusing on learning about light and have been able to make periscopes to support our learning which was a really fun lesson for us all to do. We have welcomed parents and carers in for parents and carers afternoon and have made greetings cards for challenge day and decorated biscuits ready to be given as gifts for Christmas.

