



Heronbridge School

Together We Can

Heronbridge News Autumn(2) 2014

Leavers

As we do each year, the Leavers' Department attended the 'What next?' careers event in October. This gave many students the opportunity to try out different work-related activities. As part of our Careers and the World of Work curriculum, the event helps to introduce students to jobs and courses they may not have considered. All students will attend at least once during their three years in the Department. This year's highlights included the South Wales Police stand, two stands related to animals and a construction stand where the staff encouraged everyone to build a small wall.

Autistic Department

We had a very busy half term, where we have been looking at different stories, our favourite story has been 'The Three Little Pigs'. We have listened to stories, rhymes and joined in with action songs. We re-enacted The Gingerbread man story where we dressed up and ate lots of lovely food. We have made animal masks, houses, firework and bonfire pictures. We have been working on choosing our own targets and celebrating what we have learnt, lots of us have had daily stickers or stamps. The senior department have been working on their cookery skills and they have been using Tesco online to create their own shopping lists. The senior classes have also enjoyed going to Ewenny Pottery to buy their breakfast and they have been using PECS to ask for their snack.

Primary

To start our Autumn Term all classes went to the beach for the day for 'Barry Island Beach Party!' We enjoyed playing on the beach and even had chips and ice cream for dinner! To support our topic, classes 4 and 5 were lucky enough to have a local potter to come in and help make Matisse faces. We also invited parents in to join in with our 'Send a Cow' day to promote reading. Some of our parents came in and joined in with our Gingerbread man sensory story. All parents made a donation which we sent to the African project. We also celebrated Harvest by taking part in Apple Day and having our own Primary assembly. We all brought in spare food from our cupboards and donated them to the food bank.

Senior

Our year started with welcoming visitors from our partner schools in Botswana & Tanzania, showing them all the work we do and the sights of South Wales. 'Participation' seems to be the buzzword in our department at the moment, pupils have displayed their talents in many ways: Shakespeare Schools festival performance at the Gwyn Hall, Neath; medals won at the Swimming Gala @ Newbridge LC; we hosted the annual South Wales 11-a-side football tournament; KS3 visits to St Fagans; and runner-up in Link-2-Learn international competition to develop an ICT room in our partner school in Moshi, Tanzania. Well done to all participants.



Dates for the diary

November

30th Winter Market

December

2nd Friends of Heronsbridge
Annual Carol concert

5th Charity Event in Briton Ferry

9th Senior Christingle @ St. Mary's

11th Primary Christmas Concert

12th Primary Christmas concert

15th Pupils Christmas fete

17th Christmas dinner

18th Father Christmas visit

19th Panto

19th Break up for Christmas

January

5th Inset day

6th Pupils return to school

Training

As you may be aware there have been a number of questionnaires sent out recently, we would like to let you know some of the changes that we have made as a result. We are currently ensuring that the Moodle site is up to date with dates for the diary. A number of parents are not currently receiving any texts please could you ensure that we have up to date contact details. One of the queries from parents was transition, we currently hold biannual exhibition events at school where colleges/specialist services/charities etc promote their services, this is an excellent opportunity for you to consider post school options for your child. Twice weekly drop in sessions at school with Karen (our family engagement officer) are available to offer advice and information.

Friends of Heronsbridge

We had a very successful night with psychic Nataly Churchill, where we raised over £700. We are currently in the process of raising funds to develop outdoor play areas for the primary and autistic department. Our meetings are the first Wednesday of every month—please look at the Moodle for dates of meetings and upcoming events. Thanks again for all your support.

Family Matters

FAMILY MATTERS GROUP - Our first Family Matters group enjoyed making fruit kebabs as part of the Appetite for Life initiative; we had an informative quiz covering facts around healthy eating. Guest speakers were Rosa Walsh and Margaret Collins who will be back in the New Year to promote Health and Well Being. Cerebra came in to explain to parents about their free legal advice scheme. **FAMILY INFORMATION DAY** - Another very busy event with over 20 different organisations offering parents and families advice and support. Our next Information Day will be in April. **LET'S GET TOGETHER** - Our new initiative bringing parents together whose children have similar conditions is working well. We held three Get Together sessions this half term, Down's Syndrome, Autism and Gastrostomy fed pupils. Parents enjoyed chatting, sharing their experiences and supporting each other over a coffee and very often a cake! **WELFARE BENEFITS CLINIC** - David Williams hosts individual half hour sessions for parents giving advice and information about DLA and other benefits. This is a very beneficial support for parents and carers. An appointment is essential and the clinic books up very quickly. If you would like to book a slot please phone the school. Next clinic will be in the New Year.

PARENT DROP IN

Every Tuesday from 8.45 until 10.00 and Wednesday 1.30pm -2.30 you can pop in, have a coffee and discuss any issues. Lending Library is available along with outgrown School Uniform for sale.

Attendance

Our most recent whole-school attendance figure is 90.9% showing a slight decrease since July. One of the reasons for this decrease is family holidays during term-time and you will have all recently received a leaflet from the local authority regarding attendance. If you have any queries about attendance please contact Jeremy Evans or Karen Davies at school to discuss. We would like to remind you that it is vital that you give your child every opportunity to reach their full potential by ensuring that they come to school every day. If your child is absent for any reason please could you phone the school office to let us know, thank-you for your consideration and co-operation. Congratulations to class A5 who currently have 99% attendance, followed very closely (in rank order) by classes C10, C8, C9, A1, A3 & C11, who all have over 95% attendance.

Heronsbridge Moodle Website

Keep up to date with all school information and our latest news by visiting our Moodle website on <http://moodle.bridgend.gov.uk/heronsbridge/>

*If you would like to talk about any aspects of your child's education
you can telephone (01656) 653974
or email admin.heronsbridgeschool@bridgend.gov.uk.
We would like to remind parents that we do have an open door policy and welcome all
contact with parents and families.*