



Heronbridge School

Together We Can

Heronbridge News Autumn 2015

Primary and Senior

The new 2015 UNICEF "Rights of the Child" goals have been a focus for all pupils this term. We began with visits from teachers of our partner schools in Botswana and Tanzania and spent a week studying "The Worlds Largest Lesson"

We responded to the refugee crisis by collecting clothing, tents etc which were delivered by Anthea Guthrie to a refugee camp in Dunkirk in France. Harvest celebrations included an Apple Day, Go Green Day, Dizzy Goals and a collection of food for the Bridgend Food bank. Developing curriculum work through projects like this is the heart of the new Donaldson review for Welsh Education and we are proud to coordinate a network of schools working on Global issues and awareness. Senior pupils enjoyed a day at Ewenny Priory. They dressed as monks and learned about stained glass windows, pottery and herbal medicines.

Leavers The Leavers' Department expanded the range of vocational options at Heronsbridge this year to include a Sport & Fitness Studies course. Mr Price's connections in the sporting world have already paid dividends with a visit from Thinus Delpont, a former South African rugby player, as part of the Sky Sports 'Living for Sport' project. Thinus spent a morning at school speaking to students about the Sky Sports 'Six Keys to Success', including raising self-esteem, developing self-confidence and encouraging young people to break through barriers through participation in sport. This is an ongoing partnership for the school with more exciting visits to come. The whole Department also attended a "What's next?" Careers event.



Centre for Autism

A big welcome back to all staff and pupils this autumn term! We welcome many new pupils (too many to name here!) and three new teachers to the department this term! Its been a busy first half term and we have certainly hit the ground running and dived straight into our new topic which is Ourselves. There have been new sessions in the DYB Resource base of Resonance Boards which many of the pupils department have quickly accepted and thoroughly enjoyed.

Two classes, A8 and A9, are now located close to the Leavers and Senior departments. This enables staff to share expertise and resources between the Centre for Autism and the main body of the school and allows pupils to access lessons within other classes if appropriate.

Dates for the diary

Nov 26 Bring and Buy 10-1
Nov 27 Bags 2 school-blue bags
Nov 29 Xmas market Santa 11-3
Dec 1 Friends Carol evening 7-9
Dec 4 presentation of new
Variety Club Skyblue bus.
Dec 8 Senior concert
Dec 10 Senior concert
Dec 11 Primary concert
Dec 14 Pupils' Christmas Fayre
Dec 15 Christmas Jumper Day
and Christmas Dinner
Dec 16 'Alice in Panto Land' at
Bridgend College 9.30
Dec 18 Last day of term
Jan 4 Staff training Day
Jan 5 First Day of term

Celebrations

Héronsbridge has recently been categorized by the Welsh Government Schools Challenge programme and been awarded Grade 1 for "Standards" and Green for "Prospects for Improvement". This means Heronsbridge is a "Self Improving School" which is the highest accolade!! Congratulations to Mrs James, the staff, and pupils!

We have also been invited to become a "New Deal" Pioneer school to develop training for delivery of the new Donaldson curriculum and to be a Central South Hub school. This reflects the role our school plays in training and supporting other schools across South Wales.

Events

Join us at the Christmas Market on Sunday 29th Nov 11-3. Santa will be in his Grotto along with Olaf, Elsa, his elves and a Minion!!

There will be a record number of stalls with a host of stylish gifts and treats, hot soup, cake, and drinks.

Please come to support the school with your friends and families.

Friends of Heronsbridge invite you to join them for Carols, drinks, and mince pies. On 2 Dec from 7-9pm in Heron Hall—this will really get you in mood for Christmas!



Family Matters

Karen Davies Family Engagement Officer Contact: karen.davies2@bridgend.gov.uk

PARENT DROP IN Every Tuesday morning 8.45 until 10.00 all parents / carers are welcome to pop to the conservatory, have a coffee, relax or discuss any issues.

The Lending Library is available along with outgrown School Uniform for sale.

We now have Radar keys available to access public Disabled toilets.

SENSORY SANTA shopping day was a great success with many parents ordering presents for Christmas

YOGA sessions are held every Thursday 3.45-4.45. Phone 01656 653974 for info.

Attendance this term was 93% showing an increase since last summer—thank you. It is vital each and every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential through coming to school every day. If your child is absent for any reason, please let the school office know by phoning 01656 653974. Congratulations to C10+L3 with 97% attendance followed by A8 A9 C12 and C8 with over 95%

Héronsbridge Moodle Website

Keep up to date 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.héronsbridgeschool@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.*



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***Merry Christmas
Nadolig Llawen!***

Primary

Our Primary Dept held their Christmas concert "Come and See the Baby" at St Mary's Church, our pupils made us proud with their amazing efforts and as always, looked wonderful. Thanks to all for the kind donations which totalled a great £285, half of which will go to the church.



Senior

The secondary pupils wowed friends and family with their version of "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory". They sang, danced and acted their way through a really professional and entertaining show.



Our "Wonderful Wacky Willy Wonka" tree won 2 awards at the Noltan Church Christmas Tree Festival.

Our own Willy Wonka presented the tree to the Children's Ward at the Princess of Wales Hospital.

Centre for Autism

Scott Jones has won a place in the 2016 Sainsbury's calendar for his picture for the month of October. He went to Sainsbury's to meet the Mayor and to receive his prize. He has made the school and his family very proud.



Dates for the diary

- Jan 4** Staff training Day
- Jan 5** First Day of term
- Jan 12** First Family Drop in
- Jan 18** Basic First Aid Course for Parents/carers 10 - 12 at school.
- Jan 21** FARM TO FORK & DESIGNED TO SMILE Heron Hall 10.30 - 12.00
- Feb 1** Citizens Advice Bureau
Individual appointments please phone to book
- Feb 3** Welfare Benefits Clinic
Individual appointments please phone to book
- Feb 12** School closes for half term
- Feb 23** School reopens for pupils.

Celebrations

The School Choir have had a busy term, firstly performing at the Friends Carol concert with "Phil and Ash" and "Take Note", It was a fun, festive evening and raised money for the Friends Of Heronsbridge. Pupils also sang carols to entertain shoppers at Tesco and raised £448.47 towards buying new choir polo shirts and hoodies.

Leavers

On Thursday 3rd December 2015, our Leavers Sport and Fitness studies group visited the Newport Gwent Dragons in their training base in Ystrad Mynach. We met head coach Kinsley Jones, had a tour of the cutting-edge facilities, and watched the players train.

We played touch rugby with some players. There were lovely tries on display, showing the progress the boys have made this term.

Well done to all the boys who were fantastic representatives of the school!



Family Matters

Karen Davies Family Engagement Officer contact: karen.davies2@bridgend.gov.uk

FAMILY MATTERS GROUP Parents and carers attended a talk about Understanding and Managing Sleep in November. Current and informative advice and ideas were discussed to help with sleep problems.

BRING & BUY We held our Autumn clothes sale in Heron Hall in June followed by the **BLUE BAG** collection the next day, which raised £409 for **ECO** projects..

WELFARE BENEFITS CLINIC and **CITIZENS ADVICE** - These appointments are individual and confidential. Our next clinic will be held in January so book your space! This is a very beneficial support for parents and carers to check you are receiving the correct benefits or to discuss any issues you may have.

PARENT DROP IN Every Tuesday morning 8.45 until 10.00 all parents / carers are welcome to pop to the conservatory, have a coffee, relax or discuss any issues. The Lending Library and Sensory resources are available to borrow and purchase, along with upcycled School Uniforms for sale £1 per item. We now have Radar Keys available to access public Disabled toilets.

Keep up to date by visiting our Moodle website on <http://moodle.bridgend.gov.uk/heronsbridge>

It is vital every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential through coming to school every day.

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