



Heronbridge News Autumn (1) 2016

Greetings From Mr Evans

Welcome everyone to the new school year. It is great to see how pupils, old and new are settling in to their classes and departments. We are looking forward to another busy and happy year full of exciting opportunities and lots of fun.

Primary

We have all been really busy this term settling in to new classes and working hard on our topic of celebrations. Early Years enjoyed getting messy with Mucky Monster sessions making birthday cakes and a trifle! In addition to birthday crafts, Class 1 also celebrated Halloween by making spiders with paint and leaves in forest schools. Class 2 helped to tidy up the school by going on a litter pick and took some of the local harvest food from the primary assembly to the food bank. Class 3 also enjoyed going out and about - they visited a chicken farm, Asda and have been horse riding every week. Class 4 have been busy working with students from Cardiff University as well as learning about weddings through role play! Class 5 continued the work on celebrations and also designed and won the school Christmas card competition! Well done class 5! In addition to all of this hard work in classes, two pupils Ellie and Kyle from Class 4 went on a school ambassador's event at the Millennium Centre. We all joined in with apple activities for Go Green and Apple Day as well as visiting Barry beach. Staff have also been working hard to learn new skills by attending Mindfulness training. Parents have been offered lots of training this term too! These include Floortime, MISP, Early Bird and Signalong. As you can see another busy half term!



Centre for Autism

We would like to welcome all our new pupils into our department. The pupils have settled in very well and have made lots of friends. It has been a very busy beginning of term. This term the Autistic department have been learning about Celebrations. We have had lots of birthday parties, we have made harvest pictures and cakes. We have read the story Rama and Sita and the festival of light. We have looked at lots of different stories our favourite has been Kipper's toy party. We were also very lucky to go and watch a wedding at All Saints. We have celebrated apple day where we piped the apple, made apple cake and had an apple and spoon race. We have introduced MISP (Massage in school) into our timetable and Sarah Phillips has worked with all the pupils within the department.

Heronbridge 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/>

Dates for the diary

Oct 24 Half term
Oct 31 INSET day
Nov 1 Psychic night - postponed
Nov 3 SSF Sherman Theatre 7pm
Nov 6 Zumbathon 10.00-1.00pm
Nov 8 Welfare Benefits Clinic
Nov 10 Sleep Advice
Nov 12 Jason Helmsley Charity
Night Hi Tide 7.00pm
Nov 13 Winter Market 11.00-2.00
Nov 17 Bring and Buy 10.00-1.00
Nov 18 Bags 2 School-blue bags
Nov 18 Mayor's Charity Coffee
Morning 10.00-12.30
Nov 18 What's Next? (Leavers)
Nov 28 Sensory Santa 9.30-12.30
Nov 29 Friends Carol evening 7-9
Dec 6 & 7 Primary Concerts
Dec 8 Senior Carol Concert
Dec 13 Christmas Jumper Day and
Christmas Dinner
Dec 14 Panto Bridgend College
9.30
Dec 16 Last day of term

Seniors

The newly formed Senior Department have a new Head of Department, Mr Simon Type and also welcome Ms Sarah Morgan in her role as Second in Department. Two new teachers have also joined the department Ms Teri Jones and Ms Kath Walters and a new class has been created, class 12A. The department has been busy re-organising groups to meet the needs of the pupils and providing a greater variety of multisensory activities. New areas of learning have been introduced including Outdoor Learning opportunities. All staff and pupils have enthusiastically embraced the new reading, writing and phonics programme. Key stage 4 staff and pupils have been busy preparing to perform Macbeth in the Sherman Theatre as part of the Shakespeare Schools Festival. Good luck to them!

Leavers

Students in the Leavers' Department can now access a link course in Bridgend College during each of their final three years in school, if that links with their transition plans.

The new year 12 students are enjoying their Performing Arts course which takes place on a Monday morning. Year 13 are getting to grips with Basic Cooking Techniques and come back to school each Thursday with something delicious to take home and share. Year 14 students also attend the College on a Thursday. There is a round robin course which will see them experiencing various modules over the year, including music, multimedia studies and countryside management. All these courses provide students with opportunities to try different activities. It also gives them wider experiences, such as using the College canteen and mixing with other young people.



Friends of Heronsbridge

Friends of Heronsbridge invite you to join them for carols, drinks and mince pies on 29 November. Come to Heron Hall from 7.00-9.00pm and really get in the mood for Christmas.

Family Matters

Our **Anger & Anxiety** session was very successful plenty of ideas and parents sharing experiences. Our next meeting will cover **SLEEP** and the issues surrounding managing routines and new products to aid sleep. **Thursday 10 November 10.30 - 12.00**

FAMILY INFORMATION DAY - We held our biannual Information Day last Thursday, another beneficial event with plenty of advice, support and information for parents, carers and families. Great to see so many parents from the local community and further, accessing the day. Our next event will be in April.

WELFARE BENEFITS CLINIC - David Williams hosts individual half hour sessions for parents giving advice and information about DLA, carer allowance and other benefits. This is a very beneficial support for parents and carers. An appointment is essential and the clinic books up very quickly. Next clinic will be **November 8th** so book your place.

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU - CAB hold individual confidential sessions for parents on issues such as disability, housing, money and debt, welfare benefits etc.

Our next date is **November 21st**, please phone to book an appointment.

PARENT DROP IN - Every **Tuesday morning** 8.45 until 10.00 all parents and carers are welcome to come along to the conservatory, have a coffee, relax or discuss any issues. We always have plenty of resources available to borrow and purchase.

Attendance

Attendance this half term was 91%. 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 815725.

If you would like to talk about any aspects of your child's education you can telephone (01656) 815725 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.



***Merry Christmas
Nadolig Llawen!***

Primary

This half term all of the Primary Department have been working really hard as it was our big concert! We had lots of singing practices where we learnt all of the songs and signs. We hope you all enjoyed! In addition to this we have been working hard on the school reading programme Read Write Inc. which we will be continuing with in the spring term. This year we were also invited to two masonic parties with a selection of children throughout the department attending. Lots of classes have also been lucky enough to go on a Christmas Trip to places such as the cinema, Elf Kingdom and ice-skating! To finish off the term we have had a busy week of Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas Dinner, a pantomime, a visit from some donkeys and a very special visit from Father Christmas where we all had a presents!



Seniors



The Seniors and Leavers pupils performed 'The Tree of Jesse', which told the story of Christmas through carols and readings. This was hosted at St Mary's Church which is a lovely welcoming venue for our annual carol services. Parents and other visitors commented on the excellent singing, readings and mature behaviour of all pupils.

Centre for Autism

It has been an excellent and busy Autumn term. We have had the opportunity to go lots of exciting places - farms, parks, lakes and forests. A1 went to Wiggleys farm and fed the animals, played in the park and a special visit to see Father Christmas. The last week of term has been very busy, we have had our annual Christmas fete and we raised over £220. Bridgend College hosted a fantastic pantomime "Little Red Riding Hood". A big thanks to Mr Richard Jones for organising. We have had several training opportunities for parents EarlyBird plus and MISP and the sessions were a huge success.

There will be opportunities to attend other courses next term - Touch Trust and Next Steps. The Autistic department would like to wish all the pupils/parents/guardians and friends a very Merry Christmas and a Happy new Year!!!!

Dates for the diary

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| Jan 3 | First Day of term |
| Jan 9 | Inset day |
| Jan 30 | Welfare Benefits Clinic Individual appointments please phone to book |
| Feb 09 | Wills & Trusts |
| Feb 13 | Citizens Advice Bureau Individual appointments please phone to book |
| Feb 20 | School closes for half term |
| Feb 27 | 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. The choir sang in Wickes car park to support the selling of Christmas trees, as a result we were given a lovely tree for Heron Hall. A special invitation was received from the Mayor's Charity Commission to sing at a new Well Being Centre in Maesteg. Our annual event to sing carols to entertain shoppers at Tesco raised over £400.

Leavers / Seniors

This term students from both Seniors and Leavers have had the opportunity to work with Paralympic Gold medallist swimmer Liz Johnson. Liz visited the school as part of the Sky Sports: Living for Sport initiative that helps to develop the skills and confidence of students through participation in sport. As an athlete mentor, Liz taught our students about the six keys to success. These are the top six life-skills athletes identified as enabling them to achieve success in both sport and in life. The six keys are: Mental toughness, hunger to achieve, people skills, sport and life knowledge, breaking barriers and planning for success. A number of the keys reflect our values as a school, therefore the students thoroughly enjoyed participating in both classroom and practical activities with Liz, with the added bonus of a free t-shirt for some, and a signed picture.

The school swim squad were also lucky enough to have a swim session coached by Liz. Her expertise helped our students improve their front crawl along with having a lot of fun and some competitive races.



Attendance

Attendance this half term was 90.4% Top Attenders—Well done to A1 with 100% attendance closely followed by A2 and A4 both with—98%. 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 815725

Family Matters

Cerebra came into school to talk and offer advice to parents surrounding Sleep and bedtime routines.

We held our Autumn Bring & Buy, followed by the Blue Bag clothing Collection raising £423. Our Sensory Santa event was very successful, giving parents and families the opportunity to purchase Sensory resources for Christmas etc.

If you would like to talk about any aspects of your child's education or to report a child's absence you can telephone (01656) 815725 or email admin.heronbridgeschool@bridgend.gov.uk.

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