



# Heron'sbridge News

Autumn 1 2017



## Pupils have their say...



Welcome to a new school year and a new look newsletter. Here are just some of the things we have been doing so far.

A new school council has been elected, Garin, Jessica, Ethan, Owen, Ellie and Jayden and they already have quite a few tasks to do to make sure that pupils take part in decision making in Heron'sbridge. They have represented the school as Super Ambassadors and completed questionnaires about Equalities. They are helping us with our effort to be a UNICEF Rights Respecting School by establishing a school charter and choosing the design of a Rights mascot.

Next.....organising Children in Need fundraising activities!



### Primary

- Many classes have been out on visits linked to our topic. We have been to see our houses, visited Tesco following a sensory story and some of us walked to the local food bank to see where our donations from Harvest went.
- We all made the most of the nice dry weather we had by going on autumn walks and feeling the crunchy leaves.

- Two children from class 5 were elected to be on the school council and have already been to their first meeting.
- Lots of us went to the Macmillan coffee morning where we had some tasty treats for break.
- We had our own Rights Respecting School assembly
- We celebrated Go Green Day
- Welcome to Victoria Lang, part time teacher in Class 3



### Seniors

- The senior department has introduced music therapy for a wide range of pupils which takes place on a Friday for individuals and small groups
- Class 11 have been on a trip to follow the snow dog art trail around Cardiff city centre and the Bay. This one was an easy one to spot!

- We have welcomed Miss Kimberly Jones into the department as the new class 9 teacher.
- The department organised the South Wales annual 11 a side football tournament which catered for 120 pupils.
- All classes have designed their rights respecting charter and drawn a mascot for the competition. Final decisions will be made after half term.





## Centre for Autism

- The Centre has welcomed a large number of new pupils this term, into classes A1, A3 and A4. All of our pupils, old and new, have settled in well.
- They are enjoying lots of new sessions, showing us some fantastic work and are busy playing and making new friends!

- Our classes have been looking at different stories about Wales and Africa this term, such as "We All went on Safari" and "Handa's Surprise"
- Our pupils enjoyed using their problem solving skills to make different characters from the books, out of Lego®



## Leavers

- Our year 14s have commenced a transition course with Bridgend College to prepare them for the next stage ....College Life.
- Trips out into the community include road safety walks and using public transport where a group travelled to McArthur Glen on the bus and another went to Cardiff on the train.

- The students have enjoyed taking part in a music based workshop about anti-bullying with a band called 'Written in Kings'.
- The students supported and helped organise a Macmillan coffee morning for the pupils and staff in the school. They helped to prepare and serve coffee, tea and cakes. The event raised £238. A great morning!



ATTENDANCE  
MATTERS  
...every school  
day counts!

Half Termly  
Attendance

89%

Top Attenders

Class 8

97.4%

Leavers 5

97.1%

Class A3

96.9%

Please phone  
school if your  
child is absent.

## FAMILY MATTERS

**FAMILY INFORMATION DAY** – A big thank you to the parents who attended the event last week. This is a very beneficial morning giving parents and families advice and information from a variety of support services. Our next event will be in April.

**CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU** – You can book a confidential appointment for Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November, please phone 01656 815725 to book.

**SOCIAL WORKER ATTENDING THE DROP IN** – We now have a social worker from the Disabled Children's Team coming along to the Drop In every 2 weeks. We hold the 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.

**BOOK SWAP** – We now hold a monthly adult book swap for parents. Books can be brought along and exchanged for a different book. A book for a book. Next swap Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 8.45 – 10am.

Please feel free to contact me on 01656 815725  
at any time or [karen.davies2@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:karen.davies2@bridgend.gov.uk)  
Karen Davies Family Engagement Officer

## Dates for the Diary

### November

- 06 Back to School
- 16 Bring & Buy Heron Hall 10am–12.30pm
- 17 Bag2School clothes collection
- 22 Sensory Santa 9.30–12.30
- 26 Christmas Market 11 - 2pm
- 27 Citizens Advice Bureau  
Please phone for an appointment

### December

- 05 Friends Carol Concert
- 12 Christmas Show— Senior
- 13 Christmas Show—Senior
- 14 Christmas Show - Senior
- 18 Christmas Fayre - Pupils
- 19 Christmas jumper Day
- 19 Christmas Dinner
- 22 **Last day in school**

### January

- 08 Inset Day
- 09 **Pupils' First Day back**

*If you would like to talk about any aspects of your child's education you can telephone us on 01656 815725 or email [admin.heronbridgeschool@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:admin.heronbridgeschool@bridgend.gov.uk). We have an open door policy and welcome all contact with parents and families.*



## Investors in People: Gold Award



Great news.

We have just heard that Heronsbridge School has been awarded gold accreditation against the Investors in People standard, confirming our commitment to high quality staff development. Mr Evans was particularly pleased that the report emphasised..... "Heron'sbridge School displays a passionate and driven approach to continuing to improve the provision, standards, environment, wellbeing and performance within the school for the benefit of students, staff and families." Well done everyone for contributing to the award.



### Primary

- This half term has been really busy practising for our Christmas Nativity Fidgety Star– everyone did an amazing job– well done everyone!
- All classes have been out on a special Christmas trip where they were lucky enough to see Father Christmas!

- Class 4 and 5 were lucky enough to be invited to the Senedd in Cardiff to help to decorate the Christmas tree.
- Recreate also helped the children to make Christmas crafts using recycled products.
- Everyone there commented how well behaved all of the children were–well done class 4 and 5!



### Seniors

- We welcomed back Mrs Pilane from Botswana where there were a number of activities provided to enhance our Global Partnership through the BOTAWA project.
- Swimming Gala—a large team took part in WASPLD Regional Championships winning 29 medals.
- The children raised £165 for Children in Need.

- This term the children have been focusing on rehearsals and the production of "A Tale As Old As Time" A big congratulations to all staff and pupils for their hard work.
- Classes have been out and about in the local community with Christmas trips to the cinema and bowling alley and the annual Masonic Christmas Party.





## Centre for Autism

- Our pupils have been enjoying our new C touch interactive screens that have been recently installed in some of the classrooms.
- We have been busy learning new skills and using new programs, as well as practising our numeracy and literacy skills on the boards.

- Our primary pupils in the centre took part in their Christmas Concert 'Fidgety Star' in St. Mary's Church. All of our sailors, stars and nativity animals were excellent on stage and did some fantastic singing and signing throughout the whole show!



## Leavers

- The Duke of Edinburgh group have been researching the work of our Emergency Services. They had a visit to Bridgend Police Station where they had their finger prints taken as well as seeing the custody suite
- Some of our students were part of a question and answer session with the Children's Commissioner for Wales Sally Holland. The students represented us very well and were able to give their point of view.
- The Music group enjoyed a visit to City Hall in Cardiff to take part in a Creative Skills and Careers event. They had an interesting day looking at opportunities after leaving school.
- The Students enjoyed their annual Christmas Trip to the cinema to see "Daddy's Home 2" followed by a trip to the Food Court.



Half Termly  
Attendance  
88%

Top Attenders

1. A5—97.5%
2. Class 4—95.4%
3. A1 & Class7—93.3%

Please phone school if  
your child is absent.

## Family Matters

**SENSORY SANTA** - A great opportunity for parents to buy sensory Christmas presents, share ideas and also look through catalogues. Lot of presents were bought and ordered along with refreshments including our first festive mince pies.

**BRING & BUY** - Thank you to everyone who supported our Bring & Buy / Bag2school collection, we raised £372 towards our Eco projects.

**CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU** - Our next appointment date is Monday 22nd January, please phone to book a slot.

**SOCIAL WORKER ATTENDING THE DROP IN** - Don't forget we have a social worker from the Disabled Children's Team coming along to the Drop In every fortnight, this is proving to be very useful for families. Every Tuesday morning 8.45 until 10.00 all parents and carers are welcome to come along to the conservatory, have a coffee, relax and discuss any issues. We always have plenty of resources available to borrow and purchase.

**BOOK SWAP** - We now hold a monthly book swap for parents. Adult books can be brought along and swapped for a different book. Next swap Tuesday 9th January 8.45 -10am.

Check the Heronsbridge Moodle for latest information. Please feel free to contact me on 01656 815725 at any time or email [karen.davies2@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:karen.davies2@bridgend.gov.uk)

Karen Davies Family Engagement Officer

## Dates for the Diary

### January

- 08 Inset Day
  - 09 First Day back for pupils
  - 22 Citizens Advice Bureau
- Please phone to book an appointment

### February

- 08 Wills & Trusts 10.30-12.30
  - 19 - 23 HALF TERM
  - 26 Citizens Advice Bureau
- Please phone to book an appointment

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