



Heronsbridge News

Autumn 1 2018



****Let's Get To Work****

On Friday October 12th, Heronsbridge officially launched the new Work Based Learning Pathway for our Post 16 students. We invited external partners who helped to support the project, through financial contributions and who also gave their expertise, to visit the different projects in action. These included hospitality and catering, car valeting, horticulture and bike repair workshop. Our visitors were very impressed with the new opportunities and our enthusiastic students.



Primary

This term we have been learning all about giants and the Gruffalo as part of our 'Tell me a Story' topic. It has been a very busy term, with a whole department trip to Barry Island Beach Party and class visits to support our topic work. Class 3 went to Fairytale Land in Margam Park and Early Years went on a sensory Gruffalo hunt in the school orchard, it was so much fun!

We held our annual School Council election campaign and our councillors met with Sally Holland to learn all about the UNICEF Rights of the Child.

Classes have enjoyed a range of activities such as Go Green Day, seeing Elvis in the building and playing table top cricket.

We had a successful Harvest assembly with donations to the foodbank.



Seniors

We have been very busy practising for our Shakespeare festival entry this year—Romeo and Juliet. Ks4 have worked hard and we are eagerly awaiting the performance after half term in Bridgend College.

Miss Jones has been developing Forest Schools and outdoor learning with our Sensory learners. They have been exploring our orchard and experiencing all it has to offer during this crisp and colourful Autumn season.





Centre for Autism

Our youngest pupils have been busy settling into the department. They have been working hard on developing their attention, communication and listening skills. They have particularly enjoyed our topic this term 'Tell me a story' and the Gruffalo has been their favourite.

On October 19th, all of our pupils participated in 'Go Green' day. We enjoyed taking part in lots of different activities out in our orchard, including singing, games, making bug hotels, printing, piping the apple and pumpkin carving.



Leavers

Our year 14 have commenced their transition course with Bridgend College to prepare them for the next chapter of life. The year 12 students also attend Bridgend College for Performing Arts and are enjoying the new experience.

The Leavers have access to new courses this year including Creative Media, Bike Workshop, Creative Arts and Woodcraft. We are already out and about in the community making trips to Asda and undertaking Travel Training.



Half Termly
Attendance

92%

Top Attenders

1.
A1—99.2%

2.
A3—99.2%

3.
A6—98.9%

Please phone school
if your child is
absent.

Family Matters

FAMILY INFORMATION DAY – A big thank you to the parents, carers and families who attended our event this autumn. This is always a very beneficial and informative morning giving parents and families advice and support from a variety of support services. Our next event will be in April 2019.

THRIVE & ELSA's – Our Family Matters talk this month explained how the THRIVE approach helps children to prepare for life's emotional ups and downs and the role of ELSA's throughout the school.

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU – CAB continue to hold hourly individual confidential sessions for parents on issues such as DLA, PIP, disability, housing, money and debt, welfare benefits etc. Appointments need to be booked for this useful service.

Our next date is Monday 18 November, please phone 01656 815725 to book an appointment.

BOOK SWAP – We continue to hold a monthly book swap for parents during our Tuesday Drop In. A selection of books are available to be swapped for a different book.

Next swap Tuesday 6th November 8.45 – 10am.

Check the Heronsbridge Moodle for latest information.
Please feel free to contact me on 01656 815725 at any time
or karen.davies2@bridgend.gov.uk

Karen Davies Family Engagement Officer

Dates for the Diary

November

- 14 Sensory Santa 9.30—12.30
- 19 Citizens Advice Bureau
Please phone for an appointment
- 22 Bring & Buy Heron Hall 10 – 12.30
- 23 Bag2School Clothing Collection

December

- 04 Friends Carol concert
- 06 Senior Christmas concert
- 10 Primary Christmas concert
- 11 Primary Christmas concert
- 18 Christmas dinner and Jumper day
- 21 Last day in school

January

- 07 Inset Day
- 08 First Day back for pupils
- 21 Citizens Advice Bureau
Please phone for an appointment

*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.
We have an open door policy and welcome all contact with parents and families.*



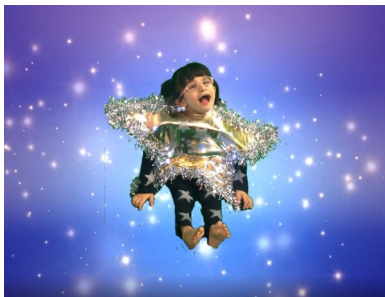
Heronsbridge News

Autumn 2 2018



“We’ve all got rights”

During a week in November, the whole school took part in a Rights Respecting Week. We learnt about Universal Children’s Day and all classes designed a poster based on Article from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. A local Welsh artist, Geoff Fahey also worked with pupils to construct our mascot, REXY. We had the opportunity to learn and practice with the school band ‘We’ve all got rights’ a special song from UNICEF. These activities and our commitment to raising awareness of rights will support us in our journey to obtain the Silver Rights Respecting School Award.



Primary

MRS CLAUS SAVES CHRISTMAS

Our main event this term has been our very successful Primary concert, where the best way to spread Christmas cheer was indeed to sing out loud for all to hear. Thank you to all the parents who contributed costumes and who supported us on the 2 days. A massive well done to all the pupils who as always did us proud.

2 x staff from each Primary class have received PECS overview training from the SALT. Pupils continue to access Music Therapy and have had a great opportunity to communicate through music. Continuing the Christmas theme there have been many parties and celebrations, including trips to see Santa and the big man himself even showed up in school with presents for all. Class 1 visited Build-A-Bear and now have a class bear complete with 17 little hearts, one for each child and member of staff.



Seniors



Pupils had great fun participating in our Christmas Service, “Shining Star Nativity Carol Concert” in St. Mary’s Church. Thanks to everyone for your support! During Rights Respecting Schools Week, Class 9 won third place in the poster competition, winning a visit to the coffee shop for staff and pupils! Well done!

This half term, the school choir has performed off-site on two separate occasions—Sony Enterprise Centre and Maesteg Health and Wellbeing Centre. They also performed in our annual Friends’ Carol Night, held at school.

All performances were extremely successful, with pupils enjoying seeing Santa and being spoilt with lovely refreshments. Congratulations to all involved!

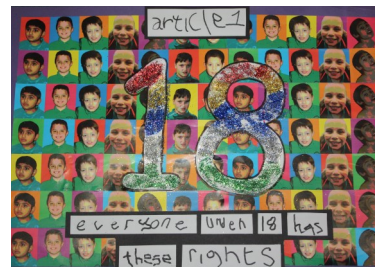




Centre for Autism

All of our classes produced a piece of Rights Respecting art work based on a right that was selected during a Rights Respecting bingo session!

Take a look at some of our work....



We have been enjoying lots of festive fun throughout December. We have been on different class trips, put on two fantastic shows with the primary and senior departments and spent our pocket money on lots of treats and games in our Christmas fayre.

Our youngest pupils have settled in well during this long term.



Leavers

The Leavers attended a Careers event called "What's Next" in Merthyr Tydfil, here they learnt about many different careers and had an enjoyable day.

Duke of Edinburgh students have been working on their volunteering section and have undertaken beach cleans in Porthcawl as well as bag packing in Asda Bridgend.

Mikey Walters won the competition to design our Rights Respecting mascot which was unveiled this term. His name is "Rexy". Our students were also involved in singing and recording the Rights Respecting Song for school.

We finished our term with a trip to the Cinema to watch Wreck-it Ralph with lunch in the Food Court. Merry Christmas see you in 2019.....



Half Termly
Attendance

Top Attenders

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Please phone school
if your child is
absent.

Family Matters

SENSORY SANTA – Many parents and families took the opportunity to purchase sensory items for Christmas. If you need any resources, timers, ear defenders, disabled keys, fidget toys etc please give me a call on 01656 815725.

BRING & BUY / BAG2SCHOOL – Thank you to everyone who supported our Bring & Buy & Bag2school collection, we raised £380.00 for our Eco projects.

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU – CAB continue to hold hourly individual confidential sessions for parents on issues such as DLA, PIP, disability, housing, money and debt, welfare benefits etc. Appointments need to be booked for this useful service. Our next date is Monday 21 January, please phone 01656 815725 to book an appointment.

BOOK SWAP – We continue to hold a monthly book swap for parents during our Tuesday Drop In. A selection of books are available to be swapped for a different book. Next swap Tuesday 5th February 8.45 – 10am.

Check the Heronsbridge Moodle for latest information.

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

Dates for the Diary

January

- 7th INSET DAY
- 8th First day back for pupils
- 8th Parent Drop In
8.45–10am
- 17th Dealing with Anxiety
Heron Hall 10.30–12.00
- 21st Citizens Advice
Please phone to book an appointment

February

25th February–1st March Half term

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