

★★Croeso Nôl★★

It has been so lovely to see so many pupils back in school and welcome you back to our Heronsbridge family—we missed you loads.

The focus on returning to school has naturally been on keeping us all safe but our whole school theme of Fun, Food and Fitness gives us many opportunities to have fun as we are learning.

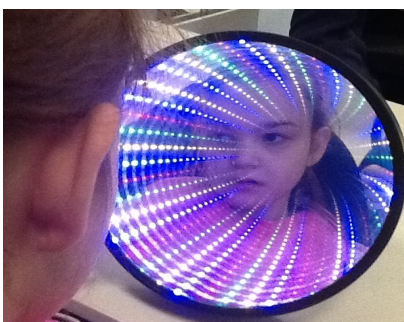


Primary

- We have welcomed 11 new pupils to our department— all of whom are settling in well
- Class 1 hatched their own chicks and are now doing a really good job of looking after Rocky, Shelley and Sleepy!
- Wellbeing has been high on the agenda. Early Years have been loving our happy half hour session, exploring items in their Happy Boxes and singing and dancing to our happy song
- To support our pupil's wellbeing, classes have also been enjoying a range of story massages and sensory stories, such as Let's Bake a Cake. However, some have been more humorous and more revolting! Would you believe 2 Fat Flies in A Puddle of Sick is about healthy eating?
- For Halloween the sensory story which was co-authored by our sensory beings last year made a fun reappearance.



Seniors



In the light of the moon.....Our sensory learners have been exploring the story 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' Each week they have been discovering new foods from around the world and enjoyed therapeutic sensory sessions, experiencing a calm environment on their return to school. The pupils have accessed the sensory rooms where they have explored light and dark through torches and UV objects linking it to the little egg in the light of the moon in the story. The favourite week was picking vegetables, making ice cream and creating strawberries with their feet!

We just couldn't 'leaf' them alone...

Seniors have been immersed in the whole school topic. While the pupils have spent a lot of their time outside enjoying the autumn sun and the colourful leaves, they have also explored the outdoor gym in our orchard. Exercising has kept our pupils healthy and active! The pupils have had many sensory experiences and took part in lots of fun activities, mixing art work and cooking, resulting in Supertato veg! The corridors are looking very colourful with all of our autumn art work. Keep up the great work!

There's lots more planned for next term!





Centre for Autism

- A big welcome to the pupils who started in September.
- We have been very busy organising our outdoor area with new areas of learning pods.
- We have been enjoying our movement breaks getting ready to learn.

- Senior CFA pupils are getting out and about each week. Walking to Newbridge fields and taking part in a range of activities.
- Biophilia-getting back to nature is so important for our health and well-being!!



Leavers

Leavers returned to school to have a taster of all the Work Based Learning courses available to them this year—Catering and Hospitality, Horticulture and Car Valeting. Students responded positively to this and learnt a lot.

Year 12 and 13 have commenced their volunteering section for the Duke of Edinburgh award, going to Newbridge Fields to identify trees and remove Himalayan Balsam which will help biodiversity. They have also taken part in a Fungi survey organised by BCBC and Plantlife.



As part of our Olympic themed work we have been cooking dishes from around the world, these include Greek Gyros Sandwiches and French Onion Tart. They were delicious! We even took some home for our families to taste.

Leavers 3 have been researching where and how the Olympics began. Evidence of this can be found on painted Greek Pots. The students have created their own pots which they have decorated and then fired in the kiln. Leavers 4 have enjoyed lots of sensory music sessions and relaxation in the sensory room. Luke found the fibre optics fascinating. Just look at that smile!



Half Termly
Attendance

76.2%

Top Attenders

1. Class 1 92.7%
2. A2 92%
3. Leavers 3 90.6%

Please phone school
if your child is
absent.

Family Matters

FAMILY DROP IN – Due to the current situation we are unable to hold our Drop In mornings on a Tuesday, but after half term we are going to hold an alternative virtual get together using Microsoft Teams. All you need is a smart phone, iPad, laptop/computer and internet access. We have 'Microsoft Teams How To' sheets to help get you started and I am on the end of the phone.

Look out for our Family Drop In letter after half term.

CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU – We are unable to hold CAB sessions at school for the moment, but if anyone would like an appointment, please phone the school and I will do my best to arrange a telephone appointment.

RESOURCES – Don't forget we sell a variety of resources to make your lives easier, including Disability toilet keys (radar keys) £2 each and toothpaste we use in school £1. We have an excellent selection of chewable products for your children, fidget toys, sensory items, ear defenders and loads more. Please give me a call if you are looking for anything in particular.

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

Half Term
26—30 October

INSET DAYS

Monday 4th January
Friday 26th March
Monday 12th April
Friday 28th May
Tuesday 20 July

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



Heronbridge News

Autumn 2 2020



★★GOLD★★



During Rights Respecting Week in November, the whole school celebrated our fantastic achievement of gaining the **GOLD** Rights Respecting School Award.

We are thrilled that this award recognises our school as a safe and inspiring place to learn and where children are respected, their talents nurtured and they are able to thrive. Our pupils understanding about the importance of rights has also increased and staff know their responsibility as 'duty bearers'.



Primary

We have all been super busy this half term preparing for our Christmas Concert—'A Christmas Recipe'. Although we have had to go about it in a different way this year, I'm sure you will agree the children were as amazing as always!

Thanks to Rich and Heini for putting it all together!

In addition to joining in with whole school initiatives such as Rights Respecting Week, we have all decorated our own fish using recycled CDs. These bright, colourful fish will welcome everyone to our department highlighting that 'We are all different, but here we swim together'.

Special mention to Kai Callard for eating his first school dinner!



What an odd week!

During November the seniors department took part in Anti Bullying, as part of Rights Respecting Week. This was celebrated through wearing your odd socks to school. Pupils also enjoyed crafting that week and designed some great socks. The socks that were created are hung in our corridor for everyone to see.

It was hard to find a matching pair but different is just as good as the same!

Strictly Cymru 2020

This term seniors took part in Strictly Cymru. As you can see our pupils scrub up well! The pupils participated in workshops to help them understand a little more about the process. They took part in online seminars through the Teams app and submitted their dances to the judges online. They will find out in February how they got on.

Fingers crossed everyone!!





Centre for Autism

Sensational science! We have been carrying out lots of experiments using food items this term, we have created edible chocolate gloop, cloud dough, kinetic sand and investigated what would happen when we added Mentos sweets to different types of soda to see which would create the best 'explosion'. Diet coke was the best!!



We Will Walk.....

Wellbeing Walks! The Primary Centre for Autism have been enjoying our twice-daily 'Wellbeing Walks'. We enjoy being in the outdoors, experiencing different weather, enjoying some fresh air and spending quality time with our friends and staff!

We are aiming to achieve the goal of a mile.....soon!



Leavers

Leavers 1 have developed their Christmas Tree to become a Tree of Hope. Each bauble on the tree has a message of "hope" for 2021. This has helped students with their Well Being during these difficult Covid times.

The Enterprise Group and the D of E Group have been making Christmas items to sell and raise money for our BOTOWA charity. They have made Reindeer Hot Chocolate, Christmas Wreaths, Santa Sleighs and have also designed and made Christmas cards for the residents of Picton Court Care Home in Porthcawl.

Leavers have been in full party mode celebrating the forthcoming wedding of Miss Williams to Mr Price with a "Hen Party" and our department Christmas party. ". For the Hen Party the students dressed Miss Williams as a bride and had a party in the afternoon where she cut the Wedding Cake. For our Christmas party we had a fun swimming session with inflatables and had a barbeque for lunch. The students then enjoyed team games and Christmas activities. A great time was had by all.



★ 2021 Dates

Diary Dates

First Day Back
Tuesday 5th
January

Half Term
15—19 February

INSET DAYS

Monday 4th
January

Friday 26th March

Monday 12th April

Friday 28th May

Tuesday 20 July

Family Matters

VIRTUAL FAMILY DROP IN – We are currently holding our Drop In via Microsoft Teams at 10am, and 11am on a Tuesday, but we will go with the flow if an afternoon is more convenient. All you need is a smart phone, iPad, laptop/computer and internet access. We have 'Microsoft Teams How To' sheets to help get you started and I am on the end of the phone. If you are unsure, give me a call and I will try to help.

CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU – We are unable to hold CAB sessions at school for the moment, but if anyone would like an appointment, please phone the school and I will do my best to arrange an appointment.

SENSORY SANTA – We held our very first Teams Sensory Santa event this term, don't forget our resources are for sale throughout the year. We sell a variety of resources to make your lives easier including Disability toilet keys (radar keys) £2 each. We have an excellent selection of chewable products for your children, fidget toys, sensory items, ear defenders school toothpaste £1 a tube and loads more. Just give me a call if you are looking for anything in particular.

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

Sad News

We were deeply saddened to hear that during this term two of our wonderful pupils passed away.

Our condolences go out to both families

Bradley's cheeky grin and Olivia's beaming smile brightened up all our lives. Their positive response to challenges they faced were an inspiration to all those who worked with them.



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.