

The Heron



2018

Free

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We would like to wish

Jaci Bevan and Sue Ronan

a long and happy retirement.

We would also like to wish Simon Type a farewell and the very best of luck in his new job as Deputy Head

The staff, students and their families would like to say

'Thank You' to you all

for your dedication and commitment to the school.

Diolch yn fawr a Pob Lwc!



Good Luck

Tarryn Wood, Gavin Thomas, Natalie Morgan, Paul Edwards, Jemma Leyshon, Annie Merchant, Paul James, Lewis Davies and Cerys Hailstone who are leaving us to pastures new.

We wish you all the best on your new adventure



We would like to congratulate staff on their wedding day



Gethin Davies and wife Lauren



Sam Evans now Collins and husband Simon

Congratulations to staff who have welcomed additions to their families

Lisa + Liam son Oliver

Sam + Darren daughter Phoebe

Rebecca (Bec) + Alec son Rowan

Rhian + Anthony daughter Ella

Rebecca + Huw son Evan

Chris + Claire son William

And a warm welcome to all new staff who have started this year.

Croeso



Welcome to the 2018 edition of 'The Heron' magazine, I'm sure that you will find it an enjoyable and informative read again this year - it really is amazing to see the pupils' achievements and experiences in one publication.

The summer term at Heronsbridge brings about many opportunities to share the journeys that our pupils have made and I have read about and witnessed their remarkable progress through annual reports, annual reviews, records of achievement, conversations with families and by seeing them in action.

This year has been another year of continued success for our pupils and staff and I cannot believe how quickly it has flown. They say that time flies when you're having fun and I can honestly say that it is a privilege to be doing a job that I love, working with inspirational children and staff, in a school that goes the extra mile to make a difference to the lives of our pupils. Some of the things that have stood out for me are the amazing performances of our Para-vaulting team at the English & Welsh Championships, the continued success of our footballers selected to represent Mencap at the European Championships, the increased opportunity for our older pupils to access work based learning and the fantastic experiences and interactions of our sensory learners.

Heron'sbridge continues to grow, evolve and adapt with our learners, this year saw the opening of the new classrooms on the mezzanine floor above the dining hall, the addition of a large poly-tunnel with mains power and water and the re-opening of the music room. We are extremely grateful to many local businesses and members of our community for their generous support in a number of these projects.

We were thrilled this year to be awarded the Investors in People Gold accreditation, which marks our twenty-one year Investors in People journey. The gold accreditation is a reflection of our values as an organisation and it truly reflects the commitment and effort of everyone working at Heronsbridge - past and present

The year also sees us wish a fond farewell to some of our most experienced and long-serving members of staff, and as they head off into retirement and exciting new posts they can be rightly proud of the monumental contributions they have made to the successes of Heronsbridge and our pupils. They have left huge shoes to fill and have set an example for all of us to follow. They take with them our eternal gratitude and good luck wishes. As one door closes another opens and we are looking forward to welcoming new staff to continue the great work.

The Heron magazine is just a snapshot of some of the experiences and achievements of our pupils and I would like to personally congratulate & thank everyone, not only associated with the production, but also highlighted in the content.

Enjoy the read.

Jeremy Evans



Training News-Professional Learning

' Together We Can'

Heronbridge believes fully in investing in staff development in doing so we ensure better learning experiences and opportunities for our pupils. The school strives to be the best it can be and all staff take responsibility for setting targets to improve their performance. This year we have been trialling the new Professional Teaching and Leadership Standards (PTLS). All teachers have baselined themselves against the 5 standards and are working to refine their practice. Peer coaching within departments and across departments is common practice allowing new techniques and ideas to be shared whole school. A big focus has been the Digital Competence Framework (DCF) and our digital team have been offering twilight sessions to support the development of this within the school.

The Centre for Autism has supported the Inclusion Service in providing training for all staff in the Learning Resource Bases within the authority offering advice and guidance and sharing our practice. This culture of support within the school is reflected fully in our core values and one of the main reasons why we achieved the Gold standard from Investors in People.

Additionally, the school has been chosen by the Welsh Government as a Pioneer Curriculum and Professional Learning School, this means we support other schools in their preparation for a new Curriculum for Wales. It's a big responsibility but we are embracing the challenge.

University of Wales Trinity St Davids (UWTSD)

Electives Programme

For the first time this year we were approached by the Education Department of the University of Wales Trinity St Davids to support them in their teacher training programme. Course leaders wanted to broaden their students experience of schools and we were asked to provide placements for BEd Year 3 primary teacher training students as well as PGCE secondary teacher training students. Heronbridge hosted 8 students for 2 weeks and facilitated learning opportunities to meet their training needs, all wanted to extend their knowledge of ALN to improve their practice. At the end of the placement, the students reported back to the school on what they had learnt. All were unequivocal in their belief that an ALN experience should be mandatory for all teacher training colleges. They were impressed by the welcoming atmosphere of the school and of the behaviour of our pupils, their attitude to learning and staff knowledge of interventions and strategies.

School Based Training

Whole School Training Days



Our training started whole school in September with Jo Grace presenting, 'Sensory Lexiconary'. Jo presented to 211 staff and Governors on sensory learning for **Sensory Beings**, we examined engagement for all our learners. Her session was fun and informative and all departments have taken elements of the training to improve their practice. Jo will be invited back in September to look at wellbeing for our sensory learners.

This training was followed by a presentation from Unicef and their Rights Respecting School Award (RRSA). By using the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) as a guide, Unicef are working with schools to create safe and inspiring places to learn, where children are respected and their talents nurtured. Heronsbridge has a Rights Respecting ethos reflected in our values. In May we achieved our Bronze Award showing our commitment to embed a rights approach into our school and our practice. We are now aiming for our Silver Award in October. The award demonstrates staff and pupils working together on school improvement. Please see our website and leaflets on 'Our Rights Respecting Journey'.



And there more...

Medical, Wellbeing, Curriculum & Mandatory Training

There has been a full programme of INSET delivered to staff to enable them to meet the needs of our pupils— this is just a snapshot.

- Anaphylaxis and Epi-Pen, Enteral feeding and Freego pump training, Epilepsy Awareness and Buccal Administration delivered by the nurses.
- Twilights in Signalong, Adverse Childhood Experiences, Trauma, Mindfulness, Sensory
- First Aid / Manual Handling Training
- Digital Competence workshops
- Communication.

A great big thank you to all those who have delivered or attended

Caring for your Child Entry 3 Senior school

Although childcare is a serious subject we always try to make the sessions fun for the young people in the Senior Department.

"Cuddles"

Supporting baby's head



Shhhhhh....

Be careful & gentle

Apprenticeship Scheme

L2 & L3 C.C.L.D.

A new apprenticeship scheme has been introduced at Heronsbridge this year. The Deputy Head, Mrs Lisa James-Smith has taken the initiative to introduce five apprenticeship positions within the school. The apprentices have the opportunity to experience placements across all the departments, providing opportunities to gain, first hand, knowledge and experience regarding the diverse approach to the delivery of the Curriculum enabling the children and young people to achieve their individual goals and targets.

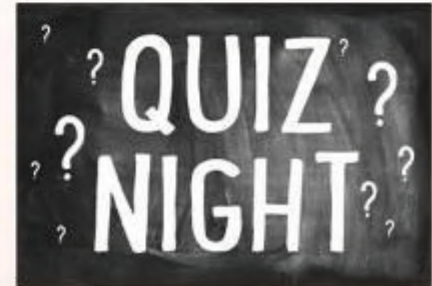
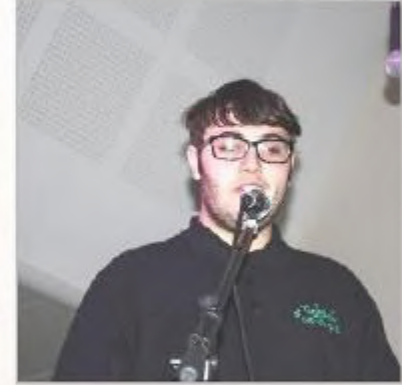
The scheme is in its pilot year and is already proving to be successful, providing the apprentices with the mandatory training as well as specialist training for the individual needs of the children and young people at Heronsbridge. In addition to the practical element the apprentices also receive weekly tuition with the R.Q.F. trainers within the school, who deliver and support the L2/L3 City & Guilds C.C.L.D. qualification, alongside promoting the high standards expected at Heronsbridge.

As a training school all the staff are involved with the day to day support, sharing their knowledge and expertise necessary to equip the apprentices to fulfil their roles within the classroom, ensuring the children and young people's individual needs are met

It is hoped that in the future the apprentice scheme will continue to supply excellent, well trained, full time staff at Heronsbridge. During the next academic year we look forward to a new cohort of apprentices to uphold the high standards at Heronsbridge.

The Friends organise a number of events throughout the year to provide entertainment for families, staff and the community as well as to raise awareness and money for the Friends of Heronsbridge Charity.

We thank everyone who organise and support these events.



Purchased items for students

Scooters, Toasters, Kettles, Microwaves, Football Trophies, Power Shot Football Goal, I pad, Christmas Gifts, DYB sensory resources.
Our main project is still to provide outdoor play equipment. The fund is growing :)



The Friends also bought a bouncy castle for the pupils to enjoy throughout the year.

The Colours Fashion show and pop up shop was a very successful event, attracting people from the whole community (mostly ladies!) and raised £800!!



Upcoming Events

- Cream tea at parents evening 3rd July 2018
- School Summer Fete 7th July 2018
- Barn Dance 29th September 2018

If you have event ideas please let us know and join the team :)



Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.



We have yet again had a very busy & productive year. The summer fete was full of fun, excitement and new activities. Together we raised a substantial amount of money. Thank you



Presents For All



Christmas was celebrated in style. The Friends take pleasure in donating a special gift to every pupil of the school individually chosen by staff.



Remembering Margaret Cash



We welcomed the family of our late Margaret Cash- our oldest and most valued member. They were delighted with her Memorial Bench and personally named Rose Bush. In lieu of flowers at her funeral, the family donated money to the Friends to purchase a PA system for the use in lessons and school events.





POP IN TO THE DROP IN

Every Tuesday morning
8.45 until 10am

Parents, Carers and Family can discuss any issues or concerns they may have over a coffee/tea and meet other parents in our relaxed conservatory.

LENDING LIBRARY

Resources are available to borrow or purchase including upcycled uniform. Our Lending Library is available to parents, carers and families.

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Half termly, individual hourly appointments available

Please telephone
01656 815725
to book
an appointment.



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT



It's Good To 'Talk'

There are many ways to keep in contact with your child's teacher :

- Home School Books
- Parent Drop In
- Text messaging service
- Telephone
- Letters
- Newsletters
- Emails
- Moodle

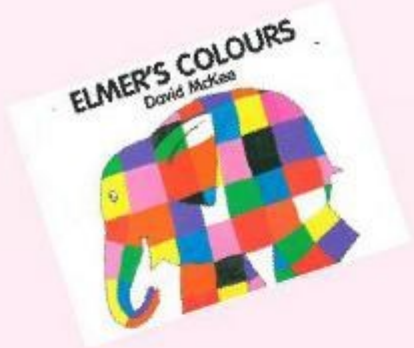
FAMILY INFORMATION DAY

If you haven't attended one of our Information Days, give it a try. Over 20 different organisations attend, offering support and advice.

If you know of any organisation you would like us to invite, please contact me and I will get in touch with them. Parents, carers and families from the Bridgend area are always welcome to attend. It's a relaxed friendly morning and we usually have delicious cakes for sale!

Our next Information Day
will be held in
October 2018

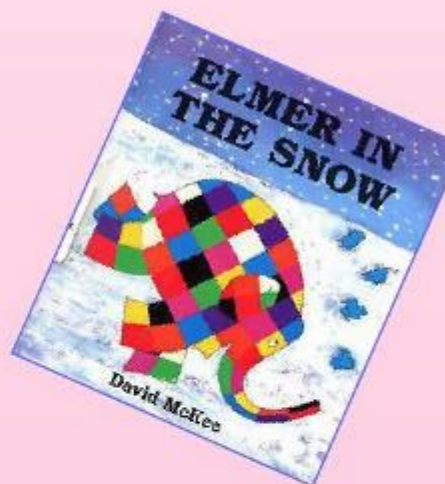
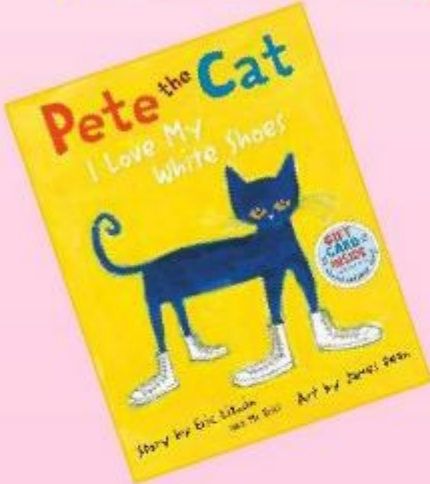
Karen Davies Family Engagement Officer
Contact: 01656 815725 karen.davies2@bridgend.gov.uk



STORY CAFE



Our topics in the Primary Department have been the WEATHER and COLOUR. Everyone enjoyed listening to the stories and joining in with art activities.



Karen Davies Family Engagement Officer
Contact: 01656 815725 karen.davies2@bridgend.gov.uk

Our school grounds have been the focus of lots of hard work this year. Take a look at some of the things that we've been doing!



New 'dead hedges' have been put up to create natural barriers and give animals a place to live.

After disappearing during the last summer holidays our bees are back!

A new seating area has been made at the back of the orchard. It's lovely to sit here and listen to the birds!



Eco-Schools

The willow tunnel has been restored and is now bursting with new leaves.

We have put in three new raised beds to grow vegetables. Yum!

A human sundial has been installed at the centre of our maze.

Now we just need some sun!



In May we joined schools all around the country to celebrate Outdoor Classroom Day. We enjoyed attending assembly in the orchard and then having fun learning outdoors.



BOTAWA October 2017



Heronbridge's Richard Howe and Teri Jones joined teachers from Bryntirion Comp on a British Council exchange visit to Tanzanian schools. They watched lessons, taught lessons and learnt a lot to bring back for our students!



Exchanges give teachers the chance to experience, discuss and compare professional issues and methods. It increases knowledge of Global Citizenship and makes them better teachers of the new curriculum back in Wales.



Teachers and students will have opportunities in the future to learn from each other using smart phone technology.



The focus for joint project work was recycling and waste reduction.



BOTAWA May 2018



Due to the success of the Tanzanian visit in the Autumn term, Jeremy Evans and Kath Walters were invited to join the Head and Deputy of Trelales Primary on a British Council exchange visit to our partner Tanzanian schools. The focus of the visit was Inclusion, both for teachers in the classroom and for school leaders.

The British Council hosted a Conference on Core Skills for over 100 teachers giving the visitors a unique opportunity to reflect on our current practice and our plans for implementing core skills into the new curriculum developments at home.



Karibu Welcome Croeso
Asante Thank you
Diolch!!



We delivered donations of maths, science and technology equipment to schools, and provided training for teachers and student teachers. Staff and students couldn't wait to see the digiscope in action!



Health & Wellbeing



At Heronsbridge, Health and Wellbeing is important to allow our pupils and staff to be the best that they can be. Our pupils have many opportunities to shine throughout a varied enrichment programme and vast curriculum experiences, Promoting confidence and independence in line with our four School values.



PUPIL SUPPORT TEAM

Additional support for pupils experiencing specific or general difficulties.

- The team are responsible for supporting the wellbeing of Heronsbridge pupils
- Pupils can be referred to the team by class teacher, parent, social worker etc.
- Referrals are discussed at weekly team meetings where an intervention and a suitable programme will be decided
- Interventions include counselling, Floortime, ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) and psychology support
- The PST offer support for difficulties such as self-esteem, bereavement, relationships, anger management, anxiety, social skills, and much more..
- Progress is monitored and discussed by the team to ensure pupils receive the support they need
- Pupils look forward to working with the PST

"It helps to see an ELSA and talk about any problems so I don't get upset"



"Psychology support helped me with my feelings"

Psychology Support

Counselling

Floortime DIR

ELSA



Jama Rama

Jama Rama encourages all children to develop their drama skills at their own pace with a range of challenging and rewarding creative activities. Here are some of ours:



We warm up our voices



We do it loud and
we do it quiet!



We roll in the mud!



We meet Ikeo and we follow
her day!





We shake the shakers

We ring the bells
and we bang the
drums

We shout Hooray !




DYB



World Book Day!



Article 31
I have a right to relax
and play




Every year we celebrate World Book Day in the primary department by having a special assembly. We all dress up as our favourite characters and bring in a book that we would like to swap with our friends.



Primary History Week

The Victorians

This year in Primary History Week we learnt all about the Victorians. We dressed up in Victorian costumes and experienced a day in the life of a Victorian child. We made Victoria Sponge in cookery, recreated William Morris style wallpaper in Outdoor Learning and learnt to maypole dance!



Yoga Club



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Yoga helps to develop body awareness.

We learn to use our bodies in a healthy way through breathing and healthy movement.

Yoga helps build concentration and increase our confidence.

We like to be part of a non competitive group. Monday afternoon 3.30pm till 5pm.

Residential

Summertime fun...

The boys have been enjoying evenings in the garden during the summer.

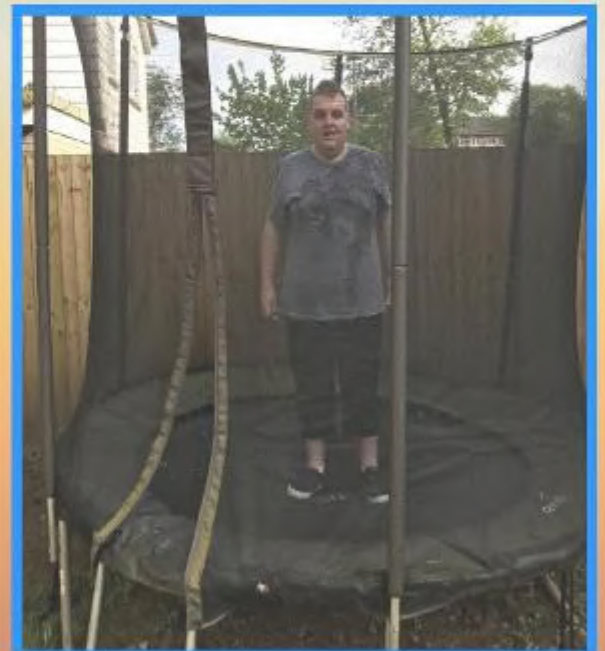
They have all enjoyed eating in the sunshine, playing ball and bouncing on the trampoline.

This term we welcomed Adam who has settled in very well and we have all been enjoying getting to know him.

As the summer holidays approach we say goodbye to Sam and Richard who are moving on.

We would like to wish them both the very best.

Goodbye and good luck Sam and Richard...



This year we have been working hard on developing our art skills. Every week we go to the Art room to create our own pictures, collages and models. We are able to use a range of equipment to develop our fine motor skills. Our favourite activity is when we can explore different colour paints and make a range of marks to create our own pieces of art. Its been lots of fun!

A1



Article 31
I have a right to relax
and play

A2



Article 28
I have the right to an
education

We use our rights throughout the school day to help us learn and play. We use our PECS books to help us communicate. The interactive white board and sensory materials to develop our writing skills. We use educational and sensory toys to relax and play.



A3



In A3 this year, we have been enjoying our cookery sessions! We have been making choices, using our communication skills and have enjoyed tasting a range of new foods!

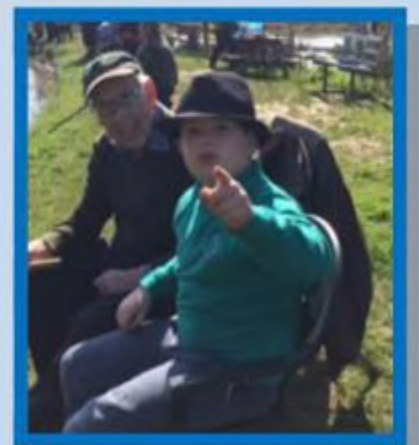
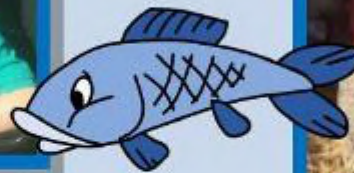
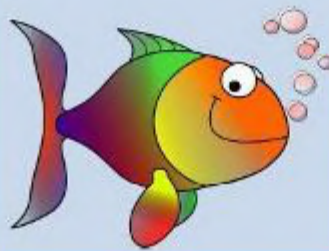
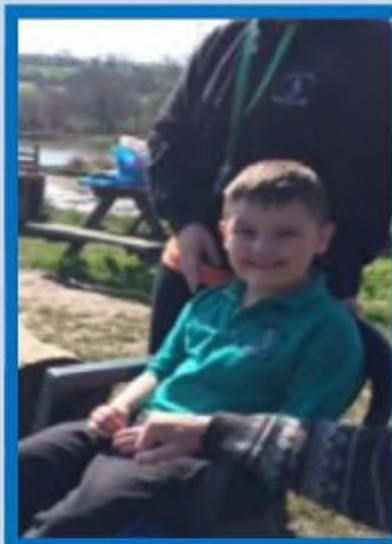




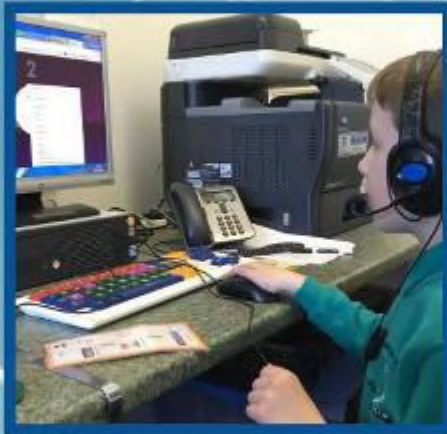
A4 go fishing...

After many years of catching twenty or so fish, this year we came with a historical deficit of one fish caught. However this did not dampen our spirits as we always enjoy the opportunities given to us by Bridgend & District Fishing for the Disabled Association and the Rotary Club of Bridgend.

The fishing experience offers more to the children than just the chance of catching a fish, such as tolerance, anticipation and most importantly opportunities for communication. The beautiful setting allows children to explore science, geography and PSE themes. Once the children caught fish, they were able to explore the farm.



Class A5 get Digital!



We take part in different digital sessions, using the computer room and iPads to work on our literacy, numeracy and digital competence skills.



We have enjoyed using our new C touch screen for different work sessions, including speech and language, reading stories and counting.



A6



In A6 we use the Rights Respecting School values to help us learn and play each day. We use our communication aids to have a voice. We use sensory toys to help us relax and play. We complete a range of activities to help us develop our skills to follow our individual programmes in O.T and swimming. We are able to show our performing skills in history week and the Christmas performance.

A7

Classes A7 and A8 have been exploring the world of work by creating products to sell at various events throughout the year.



We have made wooden signs by cutting wood to size, then sanding, painting and printing words on it.

We made Christmas decorations from branches we found in the school grounds. We peeled off the bark, cut it into slices and then decorated them.





A8

We learnt to make soap by melting the base, flavouring and colouring it and then setting it in moulds .



We have made ceramic egg cups by rolling out clay, then coiling it around a mould.

We have been growing lots of plants to sell at the school fete and have picked elderflower to make bottles of cordial.



Early Years

Article 31

I have a right to relax
and play



Sensory Stories are a really important and fun activity that we enjoy every week in Early Years. This year we have worked on sensory stories about the weather, colour, our friend from Africa and about a Welsh dragon who lost his fire. We use all our senses to explore aspects of the story eg we tasted pink candyfloss, felt the wind from a balloon on our face and splashed in water. Through repetition we learn to join in with the story, remember what's going to happen next, show likes, dislikes and preferences and anticipate our own turn in the sequence.

Most importantly we have fun!!

Article 28

I have the right to an
education





Class One



Article 29

I have the right to an education which develops my personality, respect for others' rights and the environment



Every week we have a sensory story linked to the topic. We then go out on the bus and re-tell our story using the outdoors. We have been to lots of fun places such as the Ogmore Beach, Bryngarw Park and Seasons Christmas shop. We use switches, signs and objects to help us remember the story- we all loved going through the puddles and trying to fly our kites at the beach.



Class 2

This year in Class 2 we have had lots of fun learning in the outdoor environment. We have explored our school grounds and the local area! In Forest schools we have enjoyed looking for colours, made prints using our wellies and went on safari!



Article 24
I have the right to an education which develops my personality, respect for others' rights and the environment.



Class 3...

...enjoyed their visit to...



Article 28

Children have a right to learn and to go to school!



...Maestir Victorian School at St Fagans...

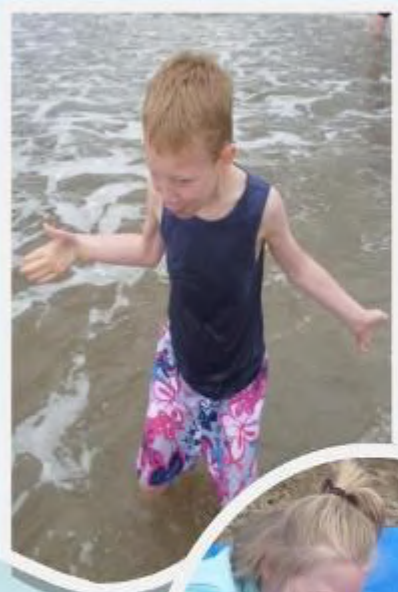


Article 31

Children have a right to relax and play!

...and the new park!

The Great Outdoors with Class 4



Article 31
I have the right to
relax and play



We've had lots of fun exploring the outdoor environment in and out of school. We had chips, ice-cream and a splash in the sea at Barry Beach, fun in the park whilst looking back at Victorian history at St Fagans. We have also really loved our weekly parachute games too!!

Class 5

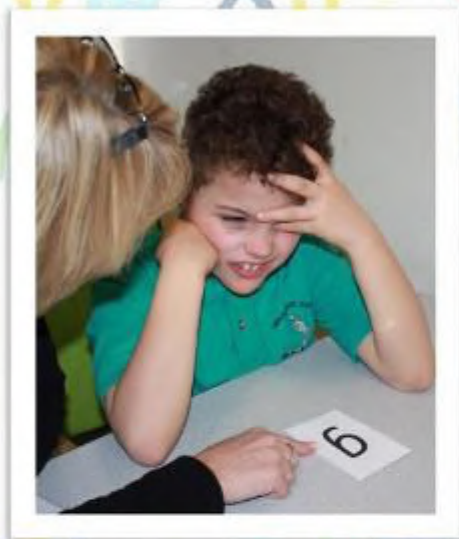


It has been a very busy year for us in Class 5, with many unforgettable experiences. We have enjoyed meeting Sally Holland and promoting the UNICEF Rights of the Child within the Primary Department. We have also welcomed many visitors to school such as P.C Robinson and Zoo Lab and loved learning through our topics "I live, You Live", "Weather" and "Colour + Light". We did very well representing the primary department in the Rotary Gymnastics competitions and enjoyed raising lots of money for different charities.

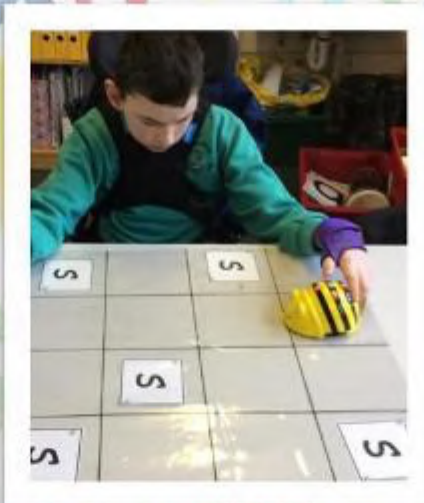


Our favourite Right in Class 5 is Article 29:
"We all have the right to be the best we can be!"





RWInc



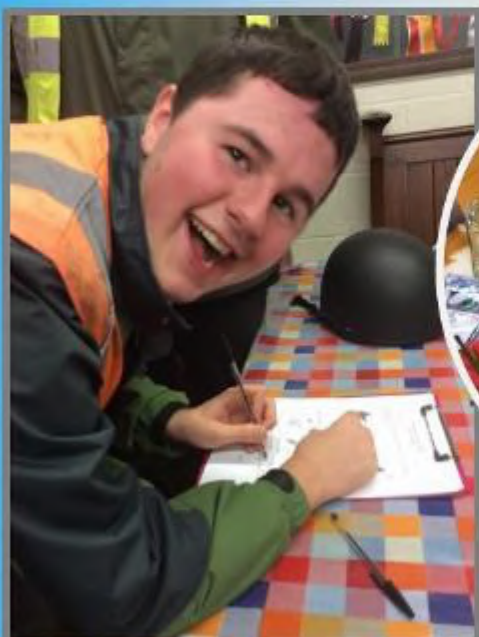
Article 29

I have the right to an education which develops my personality, respect for others' rights and the environment



Our school reading scheme is Read, Write Inc. Pupils in the Primary, Seniors, Leavers and Centre for Autism access the programme which starts by linking initial sounds to letter shapes. The pupils can have their own reading book or module which is age and level appropriate. The pupils are assessed twice a year to monitor progress set in the appropriate groups.

Dosbarth Cymorth



Dosbarth Cymorth, formally known as A9, is a transition class, open to any age across the School. Pupils are supported to access the curriculum within their respective key stages. This year, we have worked really hard on our Literacy, Numeracy, Social skills and Life skills. We enjoyed learning about the topics of "Colour", "Weather" and "You live, I live."

Class 6 By Royal Appointment



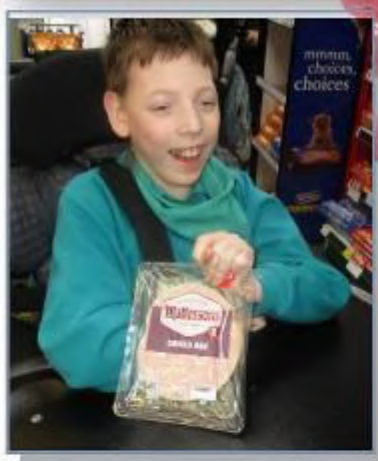
What better way to celebrate our topic of Leaders than with a royal garden party fit for a prince and princess.

We were joined on the day by Her Royal Highness The Queen, Prince Harry and Meghan Markle herself, along with many other distinguished guests. A fun time was had by all.

We spoke about the Royal Family and about the Queen and how she is one of our leaders. We discussed what will happen when the Queen is no longer the Queen and who may take over her job. Could it be His Royal Highness The Prince Of Wales or might it be his son William who will be our next leader? But the most important part of the day was having fun with our friends out in the sunshine and being happy for Harry and Meghan.

EPIC FRIENDS

in class 7



Class 7 have really enjoyed Health and Wellbeing sessions this year and learning about the importance of taking care of ourselves. We have learnt how to prepare food and drinks independently, hygienically and safely, and the importance of a healthy well balanced diet. We have loved learning how to make shopping lists, and buy the best options, getting out and about in the community, and most of all have enjoyed tasting the food and drinks we have prepared ourselves!



Class 8



Article 31 Every child has the right to join in a wide range of cultural artistic activities

Our topic in art over the spring term was Mexico.

We began learning about the Mexican flag, the Ofrenda and the "Day of the dead" festival.



We had lots of fun creating our own work using different styles of printing.



We created sugar skull patterns on a balloon then took pictures using the balloons as masks.



We enjoyed tasting different Mexican foods.



We made a flag using different textures printing our own designs using ink



Creating our own sugar skulls by using paper mache on balloons and painting them with colourful patterns.

We finished our celebrations by having a Mexican party in class; we painted our faces like sugar skulls and enjoyed eating their traditional food and listening to their music.



Exploring Forces in the Environment



During Science this term we have learnt about 'Friction as a Force' in our very own school orchard.

It was great fun!

We took it in turns to push each other on the swings and pulled and pushed each other around the mini roundabout.

We also had to work together as a team to be able to get on the see-saw.





Class 10



As part of our Science lessons during the Spring Term, we looked at the structure of our planet and the Solar System. We really enjoyed looking at the order of the Solar System and we were able to work as a team to put the planets in order. Our favourite lesson was when we researched about our moon, especially when we used 'Jaffa Cakes' to explain full moon, half moon and total eclipse! A few of us have decided we would love to be the next Tim Peake!





Class 11

We had a fun day out at Cardiff Bay to follow the Snowdog art Trail.

We found 5 Snowdogs using the Snowdog App on the IPad.

Each dog was designed by different artists and they stood at 1.5m tall.

The trail had been inspired by the short animated film 'The Snowman and the dog' by Raymond Briggs. Each dog was auctioned off in December and all the monies raised went towards Ty Hafan.

It was a great Day out!



Class 12



We have been very busy this year with our Herons & Co. enterprise projects.

We completed a survey around school that showed us which items were in demand. As we are an Eco school we use recycled materials wherever possible, and this keeps costs low.

We had great fun making and selling our items around the school, and even more fun spending our profits on a well deserved day trip!



Fairtrade Fortnight



Whilst learning about Fairtrade, we all participated in Fairtrade Fortnight. We learnt about how Fairtrade helps people receive a fair price all around the world for their produce and how it promotes sustainability.

We learnt about how products are transported, where the country of origin is and how the Fairtrade Fortnight promotes awareness of these products.

We have sampled a range of produce from around the globe, have learnt about these countries and listened to music that originate from these destinations.

Music Matters



Music provides a wonderful multisensory experience for our children; facilitating personal, social and emotional development.

We pluck strings, press keys, bang drums and shake ourselves silly. It's a whole heap of fun!





NORDOFF ROBBINS MUSIC THERAPY AT HERONSBRIDGE



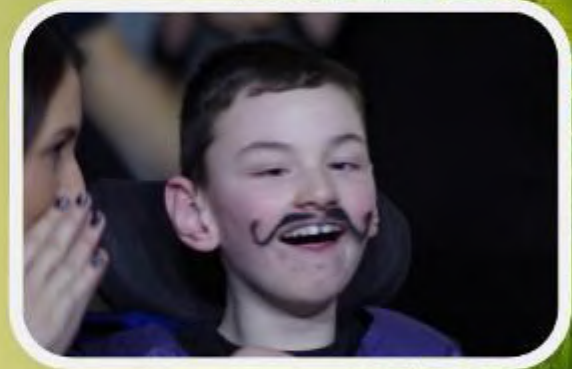
We were lucky enough for Nordoff Robbins to continue the amazing work they do for our children at Heronsbridge.

The sessions were thoroughly enjoyed by all (staff included!), and Music Therapy has had a positive impact throughout the school.

Senior School Christmas Show

presents...





★
Beauty and the Beast

Leavers 1

Leavers 1 have enjoyed the experience of Outdoor Learning. The class had Numeracy and Literacy sessions in the Orchard and the Eco Lodge. We made mud faces, had Literacy in a tent, used leaves for counting and made Halloween Pumpkins.



Article 28

"You have the right to a good quality Education"



Leavers 2

Article 31



I have a right to relax, play and join in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities



Relax and enjoy massage and Tac Pac



Join in and explore with Music Therapy



Join in and explore all the activities during DIR Floortime



Time to relax after Touch Trust





D of E



This year's Duke of Edinburgh Group have been focusing on developing personal and physical skills. The group have been working on their photography skills whilst learning about the Emergency Services. The students enjoyed visits to the Police Station where they had a tour of the cells, the Fire Station where they tried out the equipment and the RNLI where they tried on the kit they wear on a rescue at sea. The final trip was to the Welsh Air Ambulance. During this visit they looked inside the helicopter and tracked a rescue via a large computer screen. This visit was a "first" for the Leavers and we were made to feel very welcome.



Leavers 4



Drama



Yoga



Cookery



Music



Coffee Shop



Car Valeting



Football

This year in Leavers 4 we have been working hard on expanding our skills and experiences to be the best we can be!

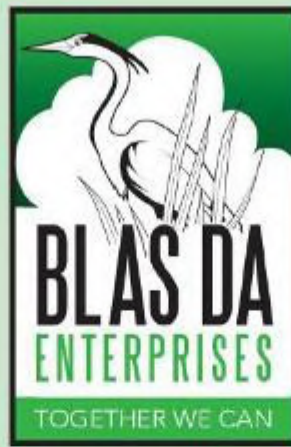


Article 17
I have the right to get information in lots of ways, so long as it's safe



Leavers 5 have been accessing different forms of ICT to carry out research on a variety of topics. This has helped us contribute to discussions throughout the year. We have learned about researching safe and relevant sources of information and have created opportunities to put to practise.





HOSPITALITY



CAR VALETING



HORTICULTURE



We have a range of work based training opportunities for our 16—19 year olds. These projects will give them the skills and knowledge to help them towards independent living and future employment.

Leavers Fundraising Events



Our plans for Work Based Learning opportunities for our 16-19 year olds took a huge step forward in the last year following two very successful fundraising events which raised in excess of £15,500 for the project.

Last June we put on a 'Summer Ball' at the Heronston Hotel and in February this year we hosted a Bollywood night at the school which was a great success with more than 100 tickets sold.

Our Bollywood night formed part of work based learning where our year 14 students helped plan, cater and provide table service for the event. They greeted our guests on their arrival and impressed everyone with their professionalism. They were a credit to the school and can be very proud of themselves. The starters and main course were supplied and served by the Award-winning Bokhara Brasserie from the Court Coleman; the food was delicious. Our staff and students put their hospitality training into action by preparing and presenting a homemade trio of desserts which consisted of rose water iced cupcake, chilli brownies and fennel Welsh cakes. They also served our guests with a cup of filtered coffee. Everyone got in the party mood dancing along with the professional Bollywood dancers and music provided by SP Entertainments.



With the money raised and the help and contribution made by Lovells Construction we have been able to set up 'Car Valeting' and 'Horticulture' workshops. These two enterprises will run alongside our highly successful coffee shop which has been in business for well over 15 years.

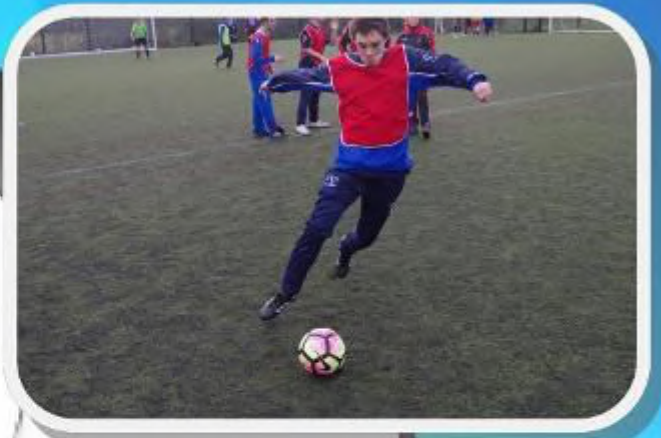
Bollywood Night



We hope that in September this year we will be reopening the doors of our 'Bike' workshop. Stafford Construction are currently converting an old garage into a much needed work based learning facility.

Both of these nights were compered by ex-Wales rugby player JJ Williams who did a sterling job of getting people bidding on the auction prizes and purchasing raffle tickets.

TRIALS 2018



Joshua Johns and Garin Lang became the latest of our students (27th and 28th respectively since 2005) to secure places in Mencap's National Football Team following trials in Harrogate, West Yorkshire earlier in the year. Trials were in fact attended by 6 of our students from the Leavers Department with Lewis Davies, Ryan Millard, Thomas Noble and Connor Stevens joining Joshua and Garin on this occasion.



TRAINING CAMP



A residential training camp took place in Yorkshire in April as part of Mencap's preparations for this year's European Football Championships in Geneva. The weekend long event featured training matches against Pontefract Pirates FS as well as Harrogate Gateway FC. There was also time for a visit to the Riverside Stadium, Middlesbrough to see Middlesbrough beat Millwall 2-0.



GENEVA 2018

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS



In Geneva in May, the schools' 14 year association with the annual European Football Championships saw our Mencap Team finish in a most commendable 5th place. This year saw competition from 15 other teams from across Europe. We are naturally very proud of students Joshua Johns and Garin Lang given the very important part they each played both on and off the field whilst in Switzerland! And thanks for all the music yet again Ga!



Global Partnerships and Community Links



A chance sighting of a road sign in Tanzania led Richard Howe, Heronsbridge and Bridgend Rotary Club to join forces with Moshi Rotary Club and REMIT to provide 1800 mosquito nets for our partner schools in Tanzania.



Rotary have supported Heronsbridge in many ways from Fishing to Football over the years, and we were thrilled to support Dr Williams, in just a small way, in his fundraising efforts for REMIT, tackling the most dangerous animal in Africa – the mosquito. Jeremy Evans and Kath Walters attended a workshop and presentation by Faye Cran, Tanzanian coordinator for REMIT, before mosquito anti-malaria nets were distributed to staff and pupils at our BOTAWA schools.

Asante, diolch William!



BOTAWA was pleased to receive national recognition for Sustainability and Inclusion with 2 awards from the Welsh Government body, Hub Cymru Africa, in Jan 2018.

We were also happy to host Mrs Maruapula Pilane, Headteacher and Educationalist from Mochudi Botswana who is always a wise and enthusiastic friend and supporter of BOTAWA.



Welsh Schools Gymnastics Competition 2018

This year the Primary Department had a very successful entry into the Welsh Gymnastics National Championships. Due to the late snow, the first round was postponed but we were fortunate to be asked to Lewis High School in Pengam on March 8th. The children's maturity and resilience saw many of them win placements for individual routines with 4 of our pupils winning medals, and two achieving overall winners for their category.



The pupils hard work gained them a place in the National Finals in Cardiff where they were met with some fierce competition from around Wales. Two of our pupils maintained their composure achieving, overall first in their categories.



A massive congratulations to everyone that took part, you have all done yourselves proud.



Gymnastics 2018



Well Done to everyone who took part in the Gymnastics Competitions 2018. Everyone worked very hard on their routines and everyone came away with medals!



The Mostyn Hills Awards

The Mostyn Hills Awards were created in the memory of Mostyn Hills who was the Swimming Instructor in Heronsbridge for many years. Mostyn taught and inspired hundreds of pupils during his time at Heronsbridge.



2017-18 winners are ...



Confidence in the water



Most improved swimmers



Swimmer of the year



Congratulations!



Swimming

We have attended two fantastic galas this year in swimming. The first was a beginners gala in Newbridge Leisure Centre, where everybody took part in team games, individual challenges and a treasure hunt.

Everybody had a great time and swam and cheered superbly.



Gala fun

Our Senior swimmers attended the Welsh Sports Association South Wales Region Swimming Championships in Cardiff National Pool. Every swimmer swam a minimum of 25m, and an impressive amount of medals were won—an illustration of how much effort every single pupil put in!

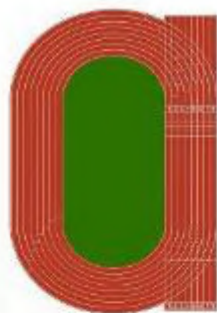


Beach Safety

We had a visit from local Lifeguards who talked about beach safety. We learnt that we should always stay between the red and yellow flags on a beach.



Nofio



athletics

We have had another fantastic year for Athletics in Heronsbridge. An incredible number of students qualified for the South Wales Regional Athletics Finals that were held on Thursday 24th May 2018 in Leckwith Stadium. All students were fantastic representatives of the school, showing plenty of motivation and resilience, along with enthusiasm, energy and lots of effort.

Our medallists on the day were:

- Leo Crawford – 1st – Junior Male Long Jump (A Band)
- Leo Crawford – 1st – Junior Male 100m
- Garin Lang – 1st – Senior Male Shot Put
- Jamie Parsons – 1st – Senior Male 60m
- Ryley Cocks – 2nd – Junior Male 200m
- Leo Crawford – 2nd – Junior Male Shot
- Holly Evans – 2nd – Junior Female 100m
- Jack Garrod – 2nd – Senior Male 100m
- Jack Garrod – 2nd – Senior Male 800m
- Dylan Hood – 2nd – Middle Male 200m
- Joe King – 2nd – Senior Male 200m
- Shannon Oliver – 2nd – Senior Female 100m
- Shannon Oliver – 2nd – Senior Female 200m
- Demi Leigh Simmons – 2nd – Middle Female 200m
- Demi Leigh Simmons – 2nd – Middle Female Long Jump
- James McAully – 3rd – Junior Male 100m
- Ryley Cocks – 3rd – Junior Male Long Jump (B Band)
- Ben Devine – 3rd – Junior Male 200m
- Garin Lang – 3rd – Senior Male 100m
- Ethan Sealey – 3rd – Senior Male 800m
- Demi Leigh Simmons – 3rd – Middle Female 100m
- Dafydd Hopkins – 3rd – Middle Male Shot
- Holly Evans – 3rd – Junior Female 200m



Congratulations to all students who competed on the day, and a special well done to those who managed to win medals!



HORSE VAULTING



Article 12: We have the right to be listened to and taken seriously ... We want a challenge, put us on a horse and ask us to do gymnastics ...



.... Which is why we are the proud owners of the only school-based Welsh Para Vaulting team. Last year we won giving us the title of Welsh Para Team Champions. It was a fantastic day and we couldn't be more proud of our achievements. With a few new members this year we can't wait for the championships this summer, wish us good luck!





Llangrannog 2018



The Senior Department trip to Llangrannog this year was absolutely fantastic. From the minute we arrived, we had the best time; there were so many different and exciting activities for us to take part in. We had a fun-filled four days and can't wait for the next trip!



Llangrannog 2018



