



Heronbridge News Spring(1) 2015

Leavers

The weeks before Christmas were very hectic with lots of fun stuff happening at school. As part of our RE curriculum, we focused on Christmas customs and traditions, finding out about Christmas trees and other traditions around the world. We also had lots of visits and events. As well as the Christingle service, Leavers visited the panto and the cinema. Nativity 3 was the choice and everyone had a brilliant time.

The new term means back to work, so this term we have many students preparing for their mock interviews. Everyone completes an application form with their personal information and qualifications, then three staff from local companies will visit school, and talk to the students about themselves and their plans for the future.

Autistic Department

Last term, we had a very busy time. The Primary Autistic dept. took part in the Christmas concert where we marched like soldiers and flew like birds. Quite a few of our pupils had solo parts this year and we are very proud of them. The Senior Autistic dept. took part in the Christingle in St Mary's Church. Our topic last term was stories and rhymes, our favourite story was "The Three Little Pigs". We were able to dress up as the characters and re-enact the story. It is now a Heronsbridge tradition to watch a pantomime at the end of the term and the whole school attended Bridgend College to watch Jack and the Beanstalk. Several of the pupils from the department ran stalls in the Christmas fete where they used their entrepreneurial skills to sell the toys and games.

Primary

It was the Primary department time to be in the big Christmas show. We all worked really hard and everyone told us they enjoyed. We also all enjoyed festive treats such as trips to McArthur Glen, the cinema and St Fagan's. We all saw Father Christmas and enjoyed our Christmas dinner with our friends as well as going to see a pantomime in Bridgend College. During the half term some children took part in the swimming gala and the school councillors Dylan Harris and Heavenly Stilskin were elected! We had new staff additions to the department Helen Mayers and Emma Protheroe in class 2. Leah in Early Years also gave birth to baby Mason in the school holidays.

Senior

Key stage 4 took part in a work shop based around Shakespeare, which ended in a performance in the Gwyn Hall in Neath. All the children enjoyed the performance. Key stage 3 have been out on History trips to St Fagans, looking at how houses and life has changed over time. The senior department put on a Christingle concert in St Mary's Church where parents came to join in the carol concert. The school, won the Christmas tree competition at Nolton hurch. The tree was made out of the children's handprints. KS3 made wreaths and Christmas decorations for the Christmas market which were made from materials found on the school grounds. The school continued its partnerships with Africa, where teachers from Botswana and Tanzania visited for a week. We raised £3000 with the help of Bryntirion Comp and Trelales Primary schools to set up an IT room in Tanzania.



Dates for the diary

February

- 13th** Break-up for half term holiday (16th–20th school closed)
- 23rd** Back to school
- 26th** Setting up Wills & Trusts for your child
- 27th** Healthy Minds Course (6wk prog.)

March

- 4th** Eisteddfod
- 6th** Musical Event (8pm start)
- 19th** Sex and Relationships Family Matters Heron Hall 10.30 - 12.00

April

- 23rd** Family Information Day Heron Hall 10 - 2pm.

Training

We had an excellent INSET day in January where staff received training in: Child Protection, Floor Time, Food Hygiene, 1st Aid, Inclusive Communication, Sensory activities and the Literacy & Numeracy Framework. A big thank-you to our hard-working trainers for putting on these programmes.

This term we are delivering numerous training courses for staff, parents and other professionals including: Healthy Minds, Earlybird+, Sexual Health, Siblings & Incredible Years. Thanks again to our dedicated staff.

Friends of Heronsbridge

The Friends Of Heronsbridge has welcomed new members last term. Mrs Bev Toms has been busy organising discos where we had a special visit from Father Christmas. We held our annual Christmas carol event the school choir sang beautifully and we had a few solos to show their vocal talent. A Big Thank You to, Phill and Ash and Take Note for their continuing support to this event. We raised over £300 in our Children's Christmas fete. Our meetings are the first Wednesday of every month—please look at the Moodle for dates of meetings and up-coming events. Thanks again for all your support.

Family Matters

FAMILY MATTERS GROUP - Managing Sleep was the focus at the Family Matters group in November, our guest speaker Catherine Stone from Cerebra offered advice and support to our parents and carers. Our parents discussed issues and problems surrounding sleep and shared experiences. **FEBRUARY 26 Setting up Wills & Trusts for your child.** **LET'S GET TOGETHER** - Our new initiative bringing parents together whose children have similar conditions is working well. We held three Get Together sessions this half term, Down's Syndrome, Autism and Gastrostomy fed pupils. Parents enjoyed chatting, sharing their experiences and supporting each other over a coffee. Two representatives from Royvon Autism Support Dogs came along and gave a demonstration to parents in the Autism group. **WELFARE BENEFITS CLINIC** - David Williams hosts individual half hour sessions for parents giving advice and information about DLA, carers 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. If you would like to book a slot please phone the school. Next clinic will be after February half term. **PARENT DROP IN** - Every **Tuesday morning** 8.45 until 10.00 and **Wednesday afternoon** 1.30 until 2.30 all parents and carers are welcome to come along to the conservatory, have a coffee, relax or discuss any issues. **HALLOWEEN & CHRISTMAS PARTY** - Pupils had a fab time at the Halloween and Christmas parties held in Heron Hall. A huge thank you to the parents who organised these events. There will be a Valentines Party for the seniors in February, keep a look out for the letter. **CHARITY EVENT** - Parents organised an event in JK's Briton Ferry to raise money for the school. A fun time was had by all, enjoying Chicken in the Basket, comedian and disco.

Attendance Our most recent whole-school attendance figure is 90.9% showing no movement since November. There has been a fair amount of sickness during the Autumn term, affecting many departments. If you have any queries about attendance please contact Jeremy Evans or Karen Davies at school to discuss. We would like to remind you that it is vital that you give your child every opportunity to reach their full potential by ensuring they come to school every day. If your child is absent for any reason please could you phone the school office to let us know, thank-you for your consideration and co-operation. Congratulations to class A5 who currently have 98.5% attendance, followed very closely (in rank order) by classes C8, C10, C11, C9, & C6, who all have over 95% attendance.

Heronsbridge 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/>

*If you would like to talk about any aspects of your child's education
you can telephone (01656) 653974
or email admin.heronsbridgeschool@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.*



Héronsbridge School

Together We Can

Héronsbridge News Spring(2) 2015

Leavers

As part of our preparation for moving on, 12 students had their mock interviews in February. To ensure they were ready for the interview, they worked on different skills like appropriate questions, displaying the right body language and personal presentation. Finally they completed application forms with their personal information and qualifications. Two people from local organisations then visited school to talk to the students about themselves and their plans for the future. Our visitors were very impressed with the standard of the 'applicants' and particularly commented on how caring, kind and polite they all were. Well done to everyone who took part - it's always great to have such positive comments!

Autistic Department

In the Primary autistic department we have been learning about different kinds of toys. Our story was Kipper's Toy Box where we practised our writing and number skills. We celebrated Red Nose day where we wore something funny for money. In the senior autistic department the topic was Recreation and Leisure where we have searched for geocaches in the surrounding area. We learnt Welsh songs and practised our dancing for the Eisteddfod.

Primary

We have had lots of visitors in the primary department—Governors observing a selection of lessons and Psychology students supporting pupils in class 3 and 5. We joined in with school initiatives such as Fun, Food and Fitness week where we enjoyed learning about healthy foods and way to keep fit and healthy. Class One and Early Years also continued with their Story Café where parents / carers came in to support their children listening and joining in with the story. Pupils from a range of classes also went to the Gymnastics Competition with lots getting medals and trophies! Well done everyone who took part!

Senior

Congratulations to everyone who took part in the gymnastic finals, where we won 12 medals. All the pupils were extremely well behaved and enjoyed the day. We had a great day in Cardiff where we won 27 medals in track and field. The Geneva football squad was announced and Joel Horton and Chris McFettritch will be playing and Mr Howe is the coach. There will be a training weekend in Bradford very soon.



Dates for the diary

March

27 Break-up for Easter (30th March—10th April school closed)
28 **Easter Party** Please phone for tickets. £4 per child.

April

13 Back to school
21 **Citizen's Advice Bureau** Please phone for an individual appointment
23 **Family Information Day** Heron Hall 10 - 2pm.

29 **Question Time** Contact a Family Heron Hall 10 until 12am

May

20 Break-up for half term holiday (21st—29th school closed)
21 **Cruse Bereavement Advice** Heron Hall 10.30 - 12.00
21 & 22 **INSET**—school closed to pupils.

June

1 Back to School

Training

This term our teams have been delivering numerous training courses for staff, parents and other professionals including: Healthy Minds, Earlybird+, Sexual Health, Siblings & Incredible Years. Thanks again to our dedicated staff.

Next term will see more of the above, plus twilight training from our Behaviour Support team and two very exciting INSET days on whole school approaches to reading and pre-reading. School will be closed to pupils on May 21st & 22nd.

Friends of Heronsbridge

The friends of Heronsbridge donated a range of outdoor play equipment for the Primary Autistic department and pupils enjoyed their new bikes and space hoppers. Our meetings are every month -if you would like to support us by either coming to the meetings or attending our events, please look at the moodle site for dates of meetings or upcoming events. Thank you again for all your support.

Family Matters

YOGA FOR FAMILIES - New for 2015, Thursday afternoons 1.15 - 2.30. All welcome suitable for all abilities. Dates after Easter April 16, 30, May 07 and 14th. The cost is £20 for the 4 weeks. **FAMILY MATTERS GROUP** - Our monthly parent group have been busy this term a talk about Wills and Trusts given by Claire Davies, a solicitor from Howells group, (they will be here on the Information Day if you missed the talk), also Massage in Schools workshop was enjoyed by parents in March, along with Sex and Relationships last week. If there is a subject you would like to know more about please give me a call. **WELFARE BENEFITS CLINIC** - David Williams hosts individual half hour sessions for parents giving advice and information about DLA, carers 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. If you would like to book a slot please phone the school. Next clinic will be after Easter. **CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU** - A representative will be holding individual confidential sessions for parents on issues such as disability, housing, money and debt, welfare benefits etc. Please give me a call for an appointment. **PARENT DROP IN** - Every **Tuesday morning** 8.45 until 10.00 and **Wednesday afternoon** 1.30 until 2.30 all parents and carers are welcome to come along to the conservatory, have a coffee, relax or discuss any issues. And have a look at the resources available to borrow and purchase. **VALENTINES PARTY** - Senior pupils had a fab time at the Valentines party held in Heron Hall. Looking forward to the Easter party on 28th March, there are still a few tickets available. A huge thank you to the parents who organised these events.

Attendance

Our most recent whole-school attendance figure is 91% showing a slight increase since February—thank-you. If you have any queries about attendance please contact Jeremy Evans or Karen Davies at school to discuss. We would like to remind you that it is vital that you give your child every opportunity to reach their full potential by ensuring that they come to school every day. If your child is absent for any reason please could you phone the school office to let us know, thank-you for your consideration and co-operation. Congratulations to class A5 who currently have 98.2% attendance, followed very closely (in rank order) by classes C8, C10, A1, & C9 who all have over 95% attendance.

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