

# Heronbridge News Spring 2

## A message from Mrs James

After 21 extremely happy years working at Heronsbridge, 16 as Deputy and 5 as Headteacher, I have made the difficult decision to retire at the end of the school year. Whilst I will miss our wonderful children and staff, I feel that the time is right for myself and the school. We are currently riding high after our last inspection and are heavily involved in Pioneer work to develop the new Donaldson Curriculum for children with Special Ed Needs.

Interviews for a new Headteacher will take place in April and as soon as the new Head is appointed I will let you know. Thank you for your support over the years, you have helped to make my job a pleasure. I am sure my successor will continue to develop the excellent work of the school and take us into a brighter new future.

Glynis James



## Primary

Our KS2 pupils studied the Celts for their History week, taking part in many fun and educational activities.

They made Celtic jewellery, did Celtic dancing and the pièce de la résistance was a large mud roundhouse in DYB.

Pupils enjoyed making clay pots as part of a sensory story and also did tie dyeing.

## Senior

St David's Day Eisteddfod competitions were based upon the Legend of the Lady of Llyn y Fan and the Physicians of Myddfai. Our four houses Coity, Ewenny, Ogmere and Pen y Bont battled on and off the stage with chants, recitations, art projects and IT projects. This year Ewenny won in a last minute surge of points—llongyfarchiadau pawb!!

The school choir teamed up with Llangewydd Primary School for a St David's Day concert to raise money for the Mayor's Charity.

KS 3 studied China for their Geography week, beginning with the Chinese New Year celebrations. Daily Tai Chi exercises, were followed by research into the Chinese Zodiac animals, Chinese history, buildings, industries, school and home life for Chinese children, dragon racing in the pool, a ping pong tournament, traditional cooking and lots of eating!

Four boys from KS4 have visited a local recording studio. They were given the opportunity to record a song written by Garin Lang -a pupil in Class 12. They all played their own instruments and are looking forward to hearing the finished track!



## Centre for Autism

The Autistic department's topic this term has been food. Primary pupils read Handa's Surprise and made some delicious food. Senior Autistic department students have been traveling with Tegwen, exploring healthy food and foods from different countries.

We have said goodbye and good luck to some of our staff who are currently awaiting new arrivals. With a sad heart we are saying goodbye to a long standing teacher Miss Liz Webb. We wish her all the best in her new job.



## Dates for the Diary

- 12 April School reopens for pupils.
- 21 April Family Information Day  
Heron Hall 10.00-1pm
- 15-17 April RHS Garden Show Cardiff  
come to see our medieval garden!
- 06 May Welfare Benefits Clinic  
Individual appointments
- 19 May Welfare Reform - Family  
Matters Heron Hall 10.30 - 12.00
- 30 May-4 June Half term
- 16 June Bring & Buy -Heron Hall 10-1
- 19 July Final school day for pupils

## **Celebrations**

**Birdwatch** Students took part in the RSPB Big Schools Birdwatch, spotting lots of birds in the grounds such as magpies, seagulls, blue tits and robins . We continue to feed and keep watch on them as the nest building season starts.

**Fairtrade** Shopping, cooking, poster making and most importantly tasting activities took place in Fairtrade fortnight. We took part in the National Big Breakfast initiative and as a whole school we served 264 Fairtrade breakfasts!

**Sports Relief** What a great day this was, thanks to the organisation by our Leavers department—fancy dress, triathlon events, the ever popular Dizzy goals and we also collectively swam the equivalent of the Channel!! Twice!!!!

Total money raised for good causes £2000 and rising! WOW!!

**Fun Food Fitness** week gave the whole school a chance to learn how to live a healthy life, with the "Daily Mile", Farm to Fork healthy breakfast project, soap making, hand washing and a whole day non-stop Movement Marathon. The three key messages were

***Get Moving! - Make Healthy Choices! - Be Well...Be Clean!***



**FAMILY MATTERS** Please come along and support any of our events.

**FAMILY MATTERS GROUP** Our talk this month covered a very important, sensitive subject - **Wills & Trusts**. Alison Huggins from Howells Solicitors came in to explain the importance of making provision for your children when you are no longer around. Cerebra also attended as they offer a voucher scheme to help with the cost of setting up a Trust Fund. Alison will be here on the Information Day to offer more advice to parents.

**LET'S GET TOGETHER AUTISM** - Our Get Together was well attended by parents/carers, guests included Debra Mitchell the new ASD coordinator from BCBC, NAS ( Bridgend) and our school therapists who offered valuable advice, also Rosie Jones gave an outline of Autism courses available.

**FIRST AID COURSE** - Congratulations to our 12 parents who completed the 4 hour First Aid Training facilitated by St John's Ambulance. Further courses to follow.

**WELFARE BENEFITS CLINIC and CITIZENS ADVICE** - These appointments are individual and confidential. Our next Welfare Benefits Clinic will be held May 6<sup>th</sup> so book your space!

### **PARENT DROP IN**

Every **Tuesday morning** 8.45 until 10.00 all parents / carers are welcome to pop to the conservatory, have a coffee, relax or discuss any issues. The Lending Library and Sensory resources are available to borrow and purchase, upcycled School Uniform for sale £ 1 per item. We now have the toothpaste used in school on sale for £1 per tube.

Karen Davies Family Engagement Officer Contact: 01656 653974 [karen.davies2@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:karen.davies2@bridgend.gov.uk)

Keep up to date on issues such as e-safety and see pictures in our gallery of events by visiting our Moodle website on <http://moodle.bridgend.gov.uk/heronsbridge>

**Attendance** Our most recent whole-school attendance figure is 92% showing a slight decrease since Christmas. 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 A3 who currently have 97.1% attendance, followed very closely (in ranked order) by classes A1, C12, L3 & A8 who all have over 95% attendance.

***If you would like to talk about any aspects of your child's education  
or to report a child's absence you can telephone (01656) 653974  
or email [admin.heronsbridgeschool@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto: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.***