

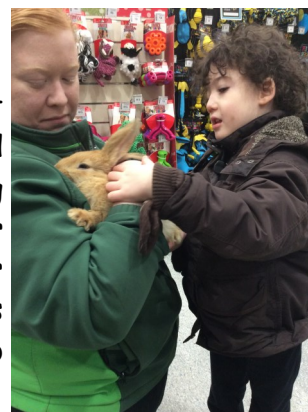


Health Award

A very special guest brightened up the usual Monday morning assembly in February. Porthcawl actress Ruth Jones joined staff and pupils to present us with the Welsh Network of Healthy Schools Scheme National Quality Award. We have been developing awareness of many aspects of healthy living in school for 15 years and are really pleased all our hard work has been recognised. As Ruth congratulated everyone she said she has been inspired to do lots of walking and cycling. We are also going to do as much as we can to live healthy lives in school and make sure that we continue *"to be an excellent example of what it means to be a healthy school"* (NQA Report 2016)

Primary

Our topic this term is Animals. Classes have been busy with visits to Pets at Home, going on mini beast hunts and a planned visit from ZooLab. In art and cooking we have made animal biscuits, ladybirds, snakes and puppy dog mousse. Alfie's Mam brought her boxer puppy into Early Years and Class 1 for a visit. Classes took part in RSPB Bird Watch, finding out what birds visit our school grounds. Class 2 celebrated the Chinese New Year by making lanterns and fortune cookies. Classes received excellent feedback from the Design to Smile tooth brushing audit. Well done all—keep those teeth gleaming white.



Seniors

This term we have continued to maintain our links with Brynteg School as four pupils attend weekly Motor Programme sessions. We have extended our healthy activities by participating in sporting activities outside school, taking two teams of six pupils to the table top cricket Welsh finals in the SWALEC Stadium. We were particularly proud of the team of 34 pupils who represented the school in the Rotary Gymnastics and the 22 who have qualified for the Welsh finals.

Centre for Autism

We have been looking at a variety of different animals this half term through lots of different medias. We are lucky to have an IT enthusiast who has created a QR trail around the school. Pupils can access this via iPads and learn more about the animals from the book Dear Zoo. This week we went to Bridgend college to watch Bridgend students perform a variety of songs and tributes. There was lots of dancing and singing by pupils and staff. The DIR/Floortime approach continues to develop within the school and several parents have received hands on training with a specialist DIR provider.

Dates for the diary

27 February	Pupils back in school
01 March	Primary St David's Day Celebrations 1.45pm
13 March	Lets get Together - Foster Carers
14 March	PIP Parent Advice and Info
20 March	Lets get Together - Gastrostomy
27 March	Lets Get Together - Down's
28 March	PIP follow up session
30 March	Family Information Day
03 April	Citizens Advice Bureau Please phone for a space.
06 April	Primary Easter Bonnet Parade
07 April	Last Day before Easter holidays

Leavers

Leavers 3 as part of their Asdan course undertook a National Standard Cycle Certificate at Bikeability in Swansea on Tuesday 10th January 2017. The course was undertaken by 11 students and 8 achieved Level 1. The remaining 3 showed competence in a traffic free environment. The day was very cold and windy and the pupils were outside for 2 hours but they showed great resilience. The behaviour of the group was excellent and this was commented on by the course leaders. Thanks to the "Friends of Heronsbridge" who kindly donated money to cover the cost of the course.



FAMILY MATTERS

FAMILY MATTERS – Howells solicitors came in last week to give valuable and interesting advice to parents surrounding Wills & Trust Funds. Thank you to everyone who attended.

STORY CAFÉ – Primary Story Cafe started again this term with a brilliant turn out from parents and grandparents, Thank you. All Primary classes will have the opportunity to attend over the next few months.

FAMILY INFORMATION DAY – Our popular event will be held in Heron Hall on Thursday March 30th. Please try to support this day as there will be plenty of advice, support and information for parents, carers and families. Parents and families from the local community and further are always welcome to come along. Resources and upcycled school uniform for sale.

WELFARE BENEFITS CLINIC – Unfortunately David Williams who hosts our Welfare Benefits Clinic will no longer be running a clinic, he has become the training officer at Cerebra so hopefully will be coming in to offer valuable advice in other areas. We'll keep you posted!

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU – CAB will continue to hold individual confidential sessions for parents on issues such as disability, housing, money and debt, welfare benefits etc. please take advantage of this valuable service. Our next date is April 3rd please phone to book an appointment. (01656 815725)

PARENT DROP IN – Every **Tuesday morning** 8.45 until 10.00 all parents and carers are welcome to come along to the conservatory, have a coffee, relax or discuss any issues. We always have plenty of resources available to borrow and purchase.

Check the Heronsbridge Moodle for latest information.

Please feel free to contact me on 01656 815725 at any time or email:

karen.davies2@bridgend.gov.uk

Karen Davies Family Engagement Officer

Attendance

Attendance this half term was 89.4%. Top Attenders—Well done to A4 and A7 with 98.3% attendance closely followed by Class 4 and Class 6 with 95.6%. It is vital each and every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential through coming to school every day.

If your child is absent for any reason please let the school office know by phoning 01656 815725

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) 815725 or email admin.héronsbridgeschool@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.



Heronbridge News



Spring 2 2017

Fun, fun and more fun

As part of ASDAN Personal Social & Development course, some students in the Leavers' Department set about organising our 'Red Nose Day' to raise money for Comic Relief.



The Sports Leaders students organised a series of challenge events for the morning involving each class in seated volleyball or dodgeball competitions. Many pupils walked the mile around the school grounds and many enjoyed fruit kebabs from our special Healthy Tuck Shop - all helping to remind us we're a healthy school!

The afternoon saw a real Heronsbridge spectacular when every department took part in the 'Heronbridge has got talent' Show. Judges were in place early to make sure they enjoyed the whole experience which included singers, dancers, comedians, ventriloquists, impressionists and musicians.



An outstanding array of talent in anyone's books! Many staff also put themselves forward to add to the entertainment, with the Spice Girls and Back Street Boys being particular highlights.

Everyone had a great time and the day raised a huge **£968.67** for Comic Relief.

Summer Ball

The Heronsbridge Summer Ball will be held at The Heronston Hotel, Bridgend on 16th June 2017. This is the perfect way to enjoy a great evening in good company, while at the same time, helping some very deserving young people. Posters have been sent home, please contact school if you need more information

Primary

This term KS2 have been very busy taking part in history week all about World War II. Everyone dressed up and had fun dancing, cooking potato scones, planting vegetables and creating gas masks and ration books. Those who took part were also lucky enough to visit the World War II museum in Swansea. The department also had a visit from Zoo lab—we all saw and touched some weird and wonderful creatures such as cockroaches and snails. At the end of the term we



had our annual Easter bonnet parade where we all wore our own bonnets that we had made at home. Thanks to everyone that helped us! We were also lucky enough to have a visit

from the Easter Bunny who hid some eggs and treats for us!

Seniors

Mrs Blackwell along with the Eco Committee and our Hospitality and Catering group organised a Big Breakfast on March 8th to raise awareness of Fairtrade Fortnight. 213 people were served and money raised supports buying Fairtrade

Dates for the diary

24 April	First Day back in school - Summer Term
25 April	Psychic Night 7pm
01 May	Bank Holiday Monday
04 May	Accessing Public services- health, education, social services Cerebra - Only 20 spaces available 10 - 2pm
08 May	Citizen Advice Bureau Please phone to book an appointment
22 May	Let's Get Together - Foster Carers 9-12am
26 May	Last day in school - Whitsun holiday
05 June	First day back in school

Centre for Autism

We had a fantastic time for Red nose day. We dressed up and joined in with lots of different activities. Primary autistic had a visit from Zoo lab—pupils and staff held some very scary animals!! Some were slimy and some were soft. The last Thursday of term we went on a Easter egg hunt and found some surprises hiding in the flowers, trees and grass. Several classes have visited local farms, ponds and parks to look at different animals. When they came back they coloured, painted and created collages of the different animals they had seen. Happy Easter everyone!

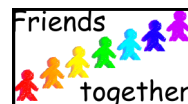
Leavers



On the 28th February the Leavers Department had a presentation from Western Power Distribution. They came to speak to us about the dangers of electricity and how to stay safe. They showed us videos of what happens if you enter a sub station or try to climb a pylon. They explained to us that we should phone the number displayed on the yellow sign to report if we see someone trying to do either of these. We should never enter the sub station. It was an excellent presentation and all the students showed a great interest and asked lots of questions.

Friends of Heronsbridge

The Fashion Show in March was a huge success. Thanks to this well attended event we raised £1,000. Our next event is the ever popular Psychic Night on 25th April.



FAMILY MATTERS

FAMILY INFORMATION DAY - Thank you to everyone who supported our popular event on Thursday March 30th, over 25 organisations attended and there was an excellent turn out from Heronsbridge parents. Many visitors from local schools attended with plenty of advice, support and information for parents, carers and families. Next event will be in October.

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU - CAB continue to hold 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 8th May, please phone 01656 815725 to book an appointment.

PRIMARY STORYCAFE - Thank you to all the parents, grandparents, aunties and uncles who have participated this year so far, our topic next term is **WATER**, letters will be sent home after Easter for the remaining Primary classes.

PARENT DROP IN - Every **Tuesday morning** 8.45 until 10.00 all parents and carers are welcome to come along to the conservatory, have a coffee, relax or discuss any issues. We always have plenty of resources available to borrow and purchase.

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