



# Heronsbridge News

## Spring 1 2019



## ★★We love gymnastics!★★

On Valentine's Day 29 students represented Heronsbridge in the 2019 Rotary Welsh School's Disability Gymnastics Championship heats in Cardiff. All of the students performed to the best of their abilities and we could not be more proud of all those who attended. We brought home a staggering 76 ribbons and trophies, with 9 of our students qualifying for the Welsh National Finals in March.

Da iawn to everyone who took part!



### Primary

#### A Big WOW to start our topic on Toys.

- Bubbles, balls and balloons galore. Staff filled the light room with brightly coloured balloons and put bubble wrap on the floor to give everyone an experience they would remember. It was certainly a lot of fun with smiles a-plenty.

- St David's Day came early to our Primary Department as we celebrated our patron saint with songs, dance, flag waving and Welsh costume.
- We welcome Jo Danaher as teacher in Class 4, covering Erica Phillips maternity leave. Congratulations to Erica on the birth of baby Izzy, daughter number two.



### Secondary

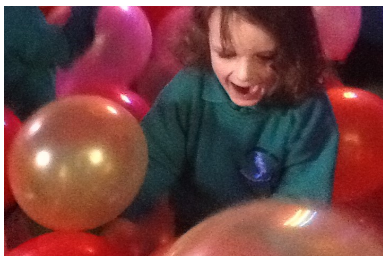
#### "H<sub>2</sub>O"

- The pupils have been training hard in the swimming pool this term, developing confidence in the water.
- Thumbs up to Ellie! One of our very own senior members of Heronsbridge swim squad, posing for a photo **under water!!**

#### Prickly problem!!

- During this term in our Forest School sessions, the pupils explored the orchard and found a soft toy hedgehog hiding in the bushes! The pupils were then able to activate the hedgehog with a switch to hear the sounds of the wilderness. They then made their very own hedgehogs using natural materials. **Ouch!**

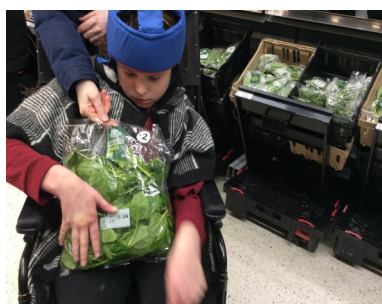




## Centre for Autism

- This term we have been learning all about balls, bubbles and balloons. Our favourite activity so far has been in the light room with over 700 balloons.
- We have also been exploring our favourite toys; we have enjoyed using the outdoor environment to play with bikes!

- A6 have been developing their surfing skills using paddle boards in the swimming pool.
- A7 and A8 have been exercising on the outdoor gym equipment in Bridgend Life Centre. They are looking forward to accessing our own exercise area in the orchard and using new equipment that has recently been purchased.



## Leavers

- Welcome back to Miss Williams who has joined us as the teacher in Leavers 5.
- Leavers 4 have been looking at the environment and how we can affect it. They visited the farm shop at Cefn Cribwr to look at organic vegetables as well as looking at the vegetable produce in Asda.

- Year 14 students have started their transition course at Pencoed College. They have had the opportunity to try taster sessions in Horticulture and Construction.
- Students have taken part in "Rookie Rugby" week in partnership with the "Ospreys in the Community Project." This is designed to encourage the students to improve fitness and have fun through rugby.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS  
...every school day counts!

## Family Matters

### Half Termly Attendance

Whole School 91.6%

### Top Attenders

1. A1 98.5%
2. A6 97.5%
3. A3 96.8%

Please phone school if your child is absent.

**WILLS & TRUSTS** – Thank you to Alison Huggins from Howells Solicitors who came in to talk to parents about Wills and setting up a Trust Fund. Alison also covered Power of Attorney and Appointee. If you require any advice Alison will be here at the Information Day on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

**ANXIETY** – Lots of parents took the opportunity to listen to an interesting talk on ANXIETY in the HOME; Joy will be holding another talk hopefully in the summer term.

**STORY CAFÉ** – Our primary Story Café has started, classes 4 and 5 have enjoyed the literacy topic TOYS and we have been lucky enough to have had a visit from GEORGE the Pets as Therapy Dog.

**CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU** – CAB continue to hold individual hourly confidential sessions for parents on issues such as DLA, PIP, disability, housing, money and debt, welfare benefits etc. Our next date is Monday 25 March, appointments need to be booked.

**FAMILY INFORMATION DAY** – Our Spring Information Day will be held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April from 10 until 1.30. Next **BOOK SWAP** is on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 8.45 – 10am.

**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](mailto:karen.davies2@bridgend.gov.uk)  
Karen Davies Family Engagement Officer

## Dates for the Diary

25 February - 01 March **HALF TERM**

04 March - First day back for pupils  
25 March - Citizens Advice Bureau  
Please phone to book an appointment

05 April - **INSET DAY**

11 April - Family Information Day  
Heron Hall 10 until 1pm  
12 April - Last day for pupils  
10 April - Primary Easter bonnet parade

15 - 26 April **EASTER HOLS**

29 April - First day back for pupils

*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](mailto:admin.heronbridgeschool@bridgend.gov.uk). We have an open door policy and welcome all contact with parents and families.*



# Heronsbridge News

## Spring 2 2019



# Under the Big Top



This term we collapsed our normal timetable for a fortnight in order to 'have a go' at working in a way that will support the curriculum reform. In order to put into practice the proposed experiences, skills and knowledge from the Areas of Learning and Experiences we decided to explore the theme of The Big Top.

What better way to start than having a Big Top erected in our grounds and circus performers to perform in it?

This certainly started off our theme with a big WOW! Pupils were able to watch some exciting acrobatic and juggling performances and then participate in circus skills workshops throughout the day.



## Primary

### Language, Literacy, Communication

Lots of fun with clowns and laughs galore! Primary pupils enjoyed using all their senses to explore The Big Top sensory story. They tasted candy floss, splatted custard pies, juggled balls and scarves, looked at themselves in the mirror with red noses and funny wigs. We learned a clown poem in Drama Rama and acted it out.

## Mathematical Development

We used our mathematical skills to decorate clown's hats, find the same and different, count and order numbers, work with 2d and 3d shapes, use pennies to buy circus treats. We matched coloured balls in the swimming pool and gave fantastic shared attention and anticipation skills in our Big Top hydrotherapy sessions.

What a great way to learn maths.



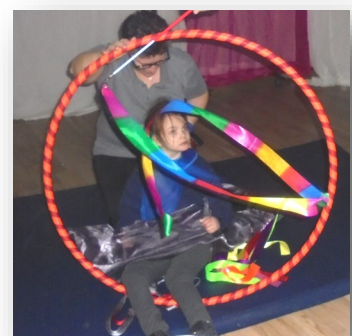
## Senior

### SPLAT!

This term has been an extravaganza!

- The pupils have been getting a taste of the new curriculum in many different ways. Our sensory beings have had so much fun using their senses to access the experiences through hearing, touching, taste, sight, and smell. This has been a very energetic experience for all.

- Touch Trust have followed and adapted their sessions to model 'The Big Top' theme. Pupils were able to play musical instruments, dance and listen to music from the Greatest Showman.
- Pupils had the opportunity to dress up and become the ring master! These sessions have allowed the pupils to use creative movements to express themselves and communicate through play and enjoyment. Relaxation was a must after all the excitement.





## Centre for Autism

### Science and Technology

The primary autistic department have enjoyed making clown pancakes. We had very unusual looking clowns with white faces, colourful hair and red noses. Our favourite activity was making cream pies, staff and pupils got very messy.

### Health and Wellbeing

The senior autistic department looked at "Y syrcas", they were able to identify if animals looked happy or sad by selecting the appropriate symbol. A7 & A8 practiced their circus skills in Halo Heights by developing their balancing and climbing skills. We have a couple of budding acrobats in the making!



### Leavers

#### Expressive Arts

The leavers have been looking at the role of the Clown within the Circus. They looked at the expressions of a clown and then used a mirror to create a clown face on themselves. We had happy faces, sad faces as well as scary faces. Jack looks very happy!

### Humanities

The leavers researched and debated the role of animals within the circus. Groups debated whether it was cruel to use animals or if they should be returned to the wild. They also looked at the living conditions of the animals in the circus and its effect on their well being.



Half Termly  
Attendance

Whole School 91.7%

Top Attenders

1. A1 - 98.4%
2. A6 - 97%
3. A3 - 96.8%

Please phone school  
if your child is  
absent.

### Family Matters

**E SAFETY** - During our weekly Drop In, IT teacher Heini Liles came in to talk about keeping children safe online. This was a great opportunity for parents to ask questions and gather information about the importance of E safety.

**STORY CAFÉ** - Our primary Story Café is in full swing, classes 1 & early years have enjoyed the whole school topic The Big Top and we have been lucky enough to have had a visit from GEORGE the Pets as Therapy Dog.

**FAMILY INFORMATION DAY** - Our Spring Information Day will be held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April from 10 until 1.30. Over 20 organisations will be in school offering advice and information for parents and carers.

**CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU** - Our next date is Monday 13 May, appointments need to be booked.

Next **BOOK SWAP** is on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 8.45 - 10am during the Drop In.

**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](mailto:karen.davies2@bridgend.gov.uk)  
Karen Davies Family Engagement Officer

### Dates for the Diary

- |                  |                                             |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <b>10 April</b>  | Primary Easter Bonnet Parade & Egg hunt     |
| <b>11 April</b>  | Family Information Day<br>10—1pm Heron Hall |
| <b>12 April</b>  | Last day for pupils                         |
| <b>29 April</b>  | First day back for pupils                   |
| <b>06 May</b>    | BANK HOLIDAY                                |
| <b>13 May</b>    | Citizens Advice Bureau                      |
| <b>23 May</b>    | Elmer Day (Primary)                         |
| <b>27—31 May</b> | WHITSUN HOLS                                |
| <b>13 June</b>   | Bring & Buy                                 |
| <b>14 June</b>   | Bag2school                                  |

Have a lovely Easter break.

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