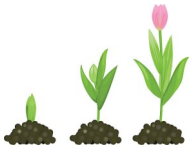




Heronbridge News

Summer 1 2021



Say It with Flowers



The summer term began with the very welcome sight of happy pupils entering the school with big smiles on their faces. Although we have been working in our 'class bubbles', it has been great to hear the sound of busy classrooms full of pupils and staff.

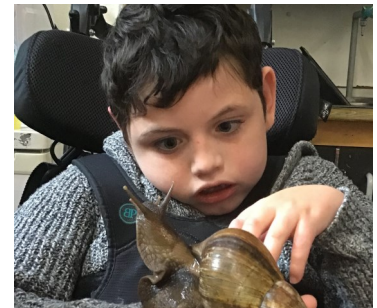
We have been making the most of our wonderful outside spaces to get as involved as we can in our theme of Gardener's World.



Primary

We had an exciting WOW start to this term's topic with a Mini Bug Ball! All of the staff and pupils dressed up as minibeasts and we enjoyed a fun day packed with lots of activities! The children arrived into school where the corridors were adorned with flowers, leaves and mini bugs galore—a memorable way to begin learning.

We had special slimy visitors into class ...Garry and Barry the giant land snails! We wet our palms so that they could sit on our hands and watched them eat their scrummy dinner— dandelion leaves! Some classes also celebrated World Bee Day on May 20th by learning about bees. Our Attention Autism sessions have been focussing on a different mini bug each week.



3,2,1grow

Our seniors have grown so much this past year, some are even towering over the staff now. Due to the absence of pupils our poor kitchen garden has suffered and our green fingered pupils and staff have been working their magic and it is now looking 100% better. All the lovely outside music sessions are helping our gardens to grow! Won't be long until we will be visiting the garden for a snack and a song! Keep up the good work guys.



Hop to it...

Our furry little friends are back and loving the attention they are having. During this half term we have made the most of being back with our fluffy friends. The rabbits have had the pleasure of spending lots of time with our students. As well as being spoilt with lots of love from the bunnies they have offered our pupils some emotional support too. Here is Kyle from class 8 out on the lawn with Poppy. I think she might have something to say to you Kyle.





Centre for Autism

In class A5 we have been looking at the story 'The Enormous Turnip' this half term and have enjoyed lots of different turnip themed activities. We made turnip vegetable soup for the farmer and his family, from the story, and learned to chop all the different vegetables!

Our older pupils have been responsible for the vegetable beds in the orchard this term. They've worked hard to get rid of the weeds and been busy planting onions, garlic, peas, potatoes and broad beans. They used recycled bottles to protect the seeds as they grew and have watered them regularly. We are all looking forward to tasting the harvest!



Leavers

Leavers students are happy to be back in school and enjoying time with their friends. The students are continuing their Work Based learning activities as well as work experience. The department are developing a new life skills facility on site which is really exciting. This facility will enable our students to develop skills for independent living after Heronsbridge.

During the lockdown our students produced some fantastic home learning work. Some of the work was in the form of worksheets but much of it was via Purple Mash and Teams. Many of the students also joined in with the online PE lessons with Mr Price as well as class "catch up" sessions. Thank you to all who supported the students during this period.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

...every school day counts!

Half Termly
Attendance

87.8%

Top Attenders

1. A1 - 96.4%
2. A2 - 95.8%
3. A3 - 95.3%

Please phone school
if your child is
absent.

Family Matters

VIRTUAL FAMILY DROP IN – We are currently holding our Drop In via Microsoft Teams at 10am, and 11am on a WEDNESDAY, but we will go with the flow if an afternoon is more convenient. Just email me to join. All you need is a smart phone, iPad, laptop/computer and internet access. We have 'Microsoft Teams How To' sheets to help get you started and I am on the end of the phone. If you are unsure, give me a call and I will try to help.

CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU – We are unable to hold CAB sessions at school for the moment, but if anyone would like an appointment, please phone the school and I will do my best to arrange an appointment.

RESOURCES – Please remember we have a variety of resources for sale, Ear Defenders, chewables, sensory and fidget toys, timers. We also sell upcycled school uniform £1 per item, if you require any please put a note in your child's home-school book and we'll see if we have any available. Toothpaste £1 per tube.

FINANCES – Have a look at the Focus on Finances powerpoint on the Moodle, plenty of advice and support for families.

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

Karen Davies Family Engagement Officer

Dates for the Diary

31 May—04 June **Whitsun**

07 June First day back for pupils

TBA Grand Raffle

19 July Last day for pupils

20 July **Summer Break**

Every Wednesday 10am & 11am
Virtual Parent Drop In
Please email:
karen.davies2@bridgend.gov.uk
to join

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. We have an open door policy and welcome all contact with parents and families.



Heronsbridge News

Summer 2 2021



You've Got a Friend



On Thursday 1 July, we held our first ever Friendship Day. This was an opportunity to have a fun day where classes could spend time together remembering our friends, past and present. It was an uplifting and celebratory day and included picnics on the lawn, games, music and dancing. Pupils also worked on the theme of friendship in their classes.

It was also very moving to acknowledge the extremely sad loss of three of our pupils by hanging messages on their individual trees.

'Love is like a tree. It never stops growing'



Primary

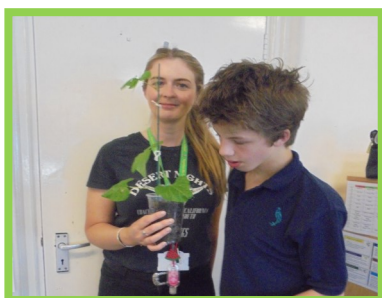
Following a learning recovery fund grant from the Arts Council Wales, Rebecca Oliver, a local ceramicist, supported 16 of our pupils in making ceramic memorial flowers. These have now been displayed in our kitchen garden as part of our friendship day remembrance.

Every class has made the most of the nice weather by going on our daily wellbeing walks around our school grounds and spending lots of time learning outside. We love our outdoor music sessions.

Every class made their own scarecrow as part of our Gardener's World Topic. These have now all been displayed out on the front lawn where you can see an Incredible, a Gruffalo and Mr Whitchurch to name a few!

In addition to this, some of us have been busy planting herbs, flowers and strawberries in individual pots and also in the orchard in their very own planting bed.

Class 4 also enjoyed learning about the life cycle of a caterpillar and then let the butterflies go into big wide world.



Seniors

'Bean' working hard!

Each class have been allocated a patch of land near the school entrance and they have been working very hard to create a masterpiece. Lots of love and care have been put into looking after it. Be sure to take a look if you visit us. Also class 8 have been growing runner beans and have kept a plant diary of their growth. They have inspected their beans under a microscope. Lets hope they taste as nice as they looked.

Summertime already?

Before we break up for our summer here's just a few things the pupils have been up to. This term they have certainly made up for their time off this year and have taken part in lots of exciting events. KS4 pupils have yet again got through to the next round in 'Strictly Cymru'. What a talented bunch! They have also organised and taken part in a 'Race For Life', the team spirit and togetherness is admirable. Pupils walked laps and laps of the school grounds and raised an astonishing £250 for Cancer Research. Wow!

Seniors wish you a happy and safe summer.





Centre for Autism

It is time to bid our fond farewells and best wishes to four amazing students, Ewan, Nash, Rhys and Tyler who are leaving us in July. We have been privileged to watch them develop into fun loving independent, and capable young men. We will always have a special place for them in our hearts and hope they will keep in touch with us.

We have had a very busy half term planting lots of different seeds some have grown and some have not. We are waiting to see how big our pumpkins grow!!!

We have enjoyed listening to new stories and our favourite has been The Cautious Caterpillar—during art we made ladybirds, flowers, owls and butterflies using natural resources we found in the orchard.



Leavers

We celebrated our Year 14s with an outdoor ROA ceremony and Prom. The front lawn looked spectacular decorated with marquees, bunting, balloons and flowers grown in our market garden. Delicious food hampers were provided by our coffee shop staff. The celebrations were tinged with sadness as we say goodbye to our special students. Good luck to you all on your new adventures and remember: Once a Heron, always a Heron!



As we say goodbye to one cohort of students, we look forward to welcoming a new group of young people to the Leavers Department. Due to Covid restrictions our transition event this year had to be held virtually but hopefully we were able to answer any questions to ensure that our new students can embrace the new experiences offered by Leavers. We look forward to seeing you all in September!



Half Termly
Attendance

88.3%

Top Attenders

1. **A1—96.5%**

2. **A2— 96.1%**

3. **C12a—95.8%**

Please phone school
if your child is
absent.

Family Matters Exciting News

Héronsbridge School have been awarded the Investors In Families **Platinum Award**, in recognition for the work the school has undertaken to support children, young people and their families.

We have also achieved the **Lockdown Award**, which highlights and celebrates the amazing and innovative ways the school adapted to support pupils and families during Lockdown .

Well done Heronsbridge - a team effort!



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

Dates for the Diary

Monday 19 July - Last day

School Year 2021 / 2022

Thursday 03 Sept - Bank Holiday
Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Friday 04 Sept - Inset Day

Monday 06 Sept - First day back
for pupils

Mon 25 October -Fri 29 October
HALF TERM

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