

# Reach for the Stars!!



As part of Children's Mental Health Week, each student was given a star to decorate to show what they would like to achieve. These are now displayed in the foyer and they look fantastic! The week ended with a 'dress to express' day and photo opportunities. It was an amazing week of celebration. On Wednesday, all staff received a Thank-you' cupcake in recognition of all their hard work and enthusiasm. Well-Being Wednesdays will be an ongoing fixture in our school week. Thank you to the Coffee shop crew for making such delicious cakes!



## Primary

**DINOMANIA WAS HERE!!!** We all had a roaring time welcoming these visitors from a time gone by. Our theme was brought to life by this fantastic WOW, where we could meet dinosaurs big and small up close and personal. We were able to touch them, see a dinosaur egg being cracked open and some of us were even brave enough to put our heads into the T-Rex's mouth. Back in class the fun continued with Dinosaur themed Attention Bucket sessions, some Dino yoga, Dinosaur cooking and lots of art opportunities.

Class 4 have continued their collaboration with 2 artists from Tanio Cymru. They have been exploring the Orchard and all its natural delights as a way of learning about climate change. As Independent Izzy's they have created crowns, hedgehogs, fossils, wild flower bouquets and engaged in outdoor team games. They have built meaningful and healthy mental and physical relationships with each other, whilst being immersed in lots of cross curricular learning opportunities that are FUN. Class 4 love a Friday afternoon!! And Tanio Cymru think we are "living legends".



## Seniors

This term we have been introduced to Fun Time Friday Choices! Some of the choices on offer are karaoke, cooking, sports, gaming, yoga and many more. Pupils have had a blast this term experiencing new activities and making new friends. This term has been filled with fun, laughter and love! What better way to end every week than to perform a personal rendition of your favourite song, or cook up a storm! Here we are singing *'Let It Go!'*

This term pupils enjoyed a fun filled morning in Heron hall with some very special guests! Guests with big feet, sharp teeth and rumbling bellies looking for something to eat. What a treat seniors have had experiencing life like dinosaurs and even their eggs. Thank you so much to **Dinomania** for their fantastic engagement with our pupils. We were glad to hear the dinosaurs were fed before they came to visit!



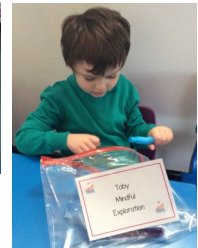




## Centre for Autism

The Senior Centre for Autism pupils have been excited to use their new life skills room! We have set up the room to develop independence skills and work towards our ASDAN qualifications. We have a range of cookery and kitchen equipment, laundry equipment and self-care equipment to help us to develop our skills!

The Primary Autistic Department love exploring the new breathing balls and mindful exploration packs. It has been an excellent way to start our day and helps pupils to calm and focus. Our pupils have particularly enjoyed the poppets, fiddle toys and sensory sticks.



## Leavers

The Work Based Learning students in Leavers put in hours of hard labour to mark Children's Mental Health Week. The catering students baked and iced a massive 234 cup cakes as a treat for all the teachers, support and admin staff in the school. The staff all want to say a big thank you to the amazing coffee shop staff and students—the cakes were delicious!

The Leavers department joined in with all the Dino fever in school. The students loved meeting all the baby dinosaurs in the fantastic Dinomania! show. Students in Leavers 1 used maths skills to work out if they could run faster than a T-Rex. Unfortunately, they would all have been a dinosaur dinner!



ATTENDANCE MATTERS  
...every school day counts!

Half Termly  
Attendance

Top Attenders

1. A2 - 97.1%

1. A5 - 95.3%

3. A4 - 94.5%

Please phone the  
school if your child is  
absent.

01656 815725

## Family Matters.

**CHILDREN'S INCLUSIVE DANCE CLASS** - Impetus Dance based in the gym, Pencoed comp are taking bookings for Spring! Starting Friday 4th March, sessions are aimed to support children with low self esteem and confidence, ranging between aged 6-14. Please contact [impetusdance@outlook.com](mailto:impetusdance@outlook.com) or telephone 07971 497 439 for further information.

**FAMILY DROP IN** - Our Virtual Drop In via Microsoft Teams is being held on a Thursday morning at 10am for the time being.

Please email me and I will send you an invite. ( email address below)  
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** - Don't forget if anyone would like an appointment to help complete DLA / PIP forms or any other issues please phone the school and I will arrange this for you.

Please feel free to contact me on 01656 815725 at any time or  
[karen.davies@heronsbridge.bridgend.cymru](mailto:karen.davies@heronsbridge.bridgend.cymru)  
Karen Davies Family Engagement Officer

## Dates for the Diary

### February

28 Pupils return to school

### March

25 Inset Day

### April

11-22 Easter Hols

25 Inset Day

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





# Heron'sbridge News

## Spring 2 2022



### OH NO THERE'S A LEEK IN HERON HALL!

Celebrating the culture and language in Wales is something Heron'sbridge school do with pride. This year felt more exciting than most as we haven't been able to get together for a while! Eisteddfod is celebrated by the pupils competing in various competitions, on and off stage followed by a gathering in Heron Hall to sing and dance. Pupils dressed in their house colours and the battle commenced! Congratulations to Ogmores house for being our overall winners.



### Primary

The Primary Dept also celebrated St David's Day by dressing in Welsh costumes, eating Welsh cakes and singing songs. It was fun to see our friends from other classes enjoying lots of activities such as sensory art, making cawl, music, a dragon sensory story and lots of St David's Day Attention Bucket sessions. We are certainly proud to be Welsh and love learning about the culture and traditions of Wales.

It would not be the end of the Spring Term in our Primary Dept without an Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Bonnet/ Hat parade around the school grounds. The pupils all loved searching for the hidden eggs that were hidden in our lovely grounds, searching high and low to find them all. We even had a visit from the Easter Bunny. The Easter Bonnet parade was a spectacle to see, full of colour and some very extravagant and wonderful creations.

Well done all. You are a skilful bunch!!!!



### Senior

This term we have celebrated many exciting things: Eisteddfod; Red Nose Day; Children's Mental Health Week and many other things.

During Mental Health Week, pupils dressed to impress and were involved in activities to celebrate a healthy mind!

On Red Nose Day, pupils took part in dancing, cooking and even the conga with our school dinosaur, Gruffasaurus. £197.31 was raised by the school for Comic relief. An excellent achievement. Well done!!



What a '**Relief**' no one was eaten by the dinosaur!



### Health and Wellbeing

We love focussing on our Health & Wellbeing! We have been taking part in regular Mile Walks, Mindfulness, Yoga, Singing and Dance to name a few activities. We use "Talking Tuesday" to have a chat about anything that is bothering us.

We've even got the staff participating in 'Wellbeing Wednesday' to help them stay happy and ready for work! Staff volunteer to organise sessions before school starts, including football goals, yoga, mindfulness, coffee and breakfast sessions, with more to come including a spelling bee! Have a great half term!







## Centre for Autism

The Primary Autistic Department have loved exploring and learning outdoors. Our pupils have enjoyed morning walks, outdoor play and P.E. The morning walks have been an excellent way to start the day to help promote our health and well-being. Our pupils particularly enjoy the parachute during outdoor learning.

The Senior Centre for Autism have been 'Sustainable Sams' on our community visits this term. We have been to Methyr Mawr sand dunes, Porthkerry Park and to Porthcawl seafront. We have been taking our litter pickers and making sure our local environment is clean and litter free!



## Leavers

Leavers 3 had lots of fun pretending to be palaeontologists as part of our dinosaur topic. They used hammers and toothbrushes to extract fossils from dinosaur poo, just like real life dinosaur experts. Thankfully, it wasn't real dinosaur poo, just a baked, flour, coffee grinds, salt and water mixture, but it looked very realistic!

As part of our Leavers' Careers and the World of Work studies our year 14 students have been able to go back out on work placements. Some pupils chose to go to Y Bont Nursery, improving their independence skills, and some chose Boots, learning about health and safety in the work place, and gaining new skills and knowledge.

It has been lovely seeing their confidence grow—well done!



ATTENDANCE MATTERS  
...every school day counts!

Half Termly  
Attendance

Top Attenders

1. A8 100%
2. A5 & A7 97%
3. A4 96.6%

Please phone school  
if your child is  
absent.

## Family Matters.

### FAMILY DROP IN - GREAT NEWS!

Our **Drop In** is restarting after 2 years!! It will be held every Thursday morning from 10 until 11.30 in Heron Hall, starting after Easter, April 28th.

Please come along for a coffee, cake and a chat. Alana Harries (assistant head) will be providing some information about the new Curriculum for Wales. We will also have few resources for sale.

**CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU** – Don't forget if anyone would like an appointment to help complete DLA / PIP forms or any other issues please phone the school and I will arrange this for you.



Please feel free to contact me on 01656 815725 at any time or  
Email: [karen.davies@heronsbridge.bridgend.cymru](mailto:karen.davies@heronsbridge.bridgend.cymru)  
Karen Davies Family Engagement Officer

## Dates for the Diary

### April

11 –22 Easter hols  
25 Inset Day (Monday)  
28 Family Drop In restarting

### May

23 Inset Day  
30 – 03 Whitsun hols

### June

06 First day back

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