



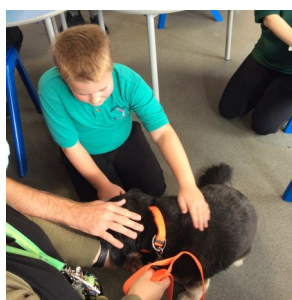
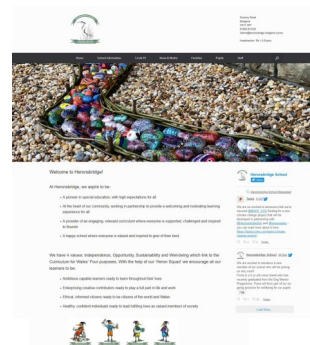
# Heronsbridge News

## Autumn 1 2021



Check out our new Website [www.heron'sbridge.co.uk](http://www.heron'sbridge.co.uk) for all our latest news, information and resources!

The children's commissioner for Wales has given the school's Super Ambassadors a mission this term-to encourage pupils to think about how Heronsbridge supports their well being and put forward suggestions on what else we can do. We look forward to hearing about their ideas.



### Primary

- Welcome to our new pupils who are all settling in to their exciting new classes!
- We all had the opportunity to interact with Fiona our new school dog! She came around our classes to visit us and we were all encouraged to say hello by stroking her and giving her big hugs!

### Primary continued

- From the 20th-26th September, we all took part in National Nature Art Week. We engaged in lots of outdoor learning whilst embracing an artistic style. One of our favourite techniques was Hapa Zome.



### Bib; and ball; at the ready.....

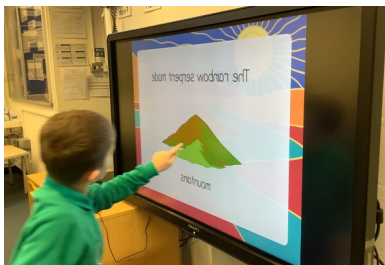
On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> Sept, the Herons had a 'ball' with their rendition of a Dribble-A-Thon. Mr Howe and his footballers pulled off a great day with pupils, past and present, strutting their stuff! Pupils had a great time showing off their dribbling skills in this marathon attempt, but were they able to master the art? With 191 laps of the football pitch (26.2

miles) completed by the team we're likely to be having players signing for Swansea City Mr Howe! I hope there were no yellow cards mind Steve! Well done to all those who took part not to mention all the staff and families who were there in support. And what about the incredible £2,509.52 raised by the guys for The Friends of Heronsbridge! Which we're still adding to!

### Y'hello' from the seniors!

Welcome back to all our pupils! This term we have celebrated Yellow Day to help raise money for Young Minds Mental Health. Pupils dug out their best yellow frocks and did it with style. We had a 'selfie' booth and lots of our pupils rocked the show with their funny socks, hats and onesies. Thank you to all those who took part and donated, it was a great day. #SELFIE Have a safe and relaxing half term from all in seniors!

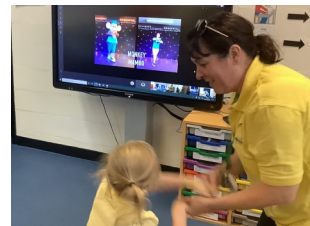




## Centre for Autism

This term we have welcomed 6 new pupils to the department and 2 new teachers. There have been several classroom moves and everyone has settled well into their new classes. Kaleidoscope is our topic and we have been working on the Health and Wellbeing element of the New Curriculum—the introduction of movement breaks and engagement sessions.

The Centre for Autism had lots of fun on Hello Yellow day. We all got together over TEAMS to join in with our Movement breaks. We enjoyed lots of Yellow activities including cookery, art and outdoor learning. We have lots of exciting new projects in the coming months and we can't wait to share them with you.

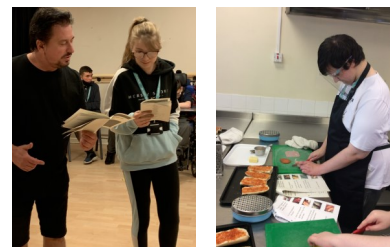


## Leavers

We welcomed our new students with an Induction Week, introducing our “freshers” to many of the experiences that Leavers has to offer. The students had taster sessions in the coffee shop, where they tasted fruit and made a fruit salad and visited our market garden, where they ate some of the delicious vegetables grown in the poly tunnel. They also had a go at camp cooking and tent building as part of our Duke of Edinburgh programme. Work-based learning and the Duke of Edinburgh will be a big part of our new students' Heronsbridge experience over the next three years.

## Leavers continued

We are excited to take our Leavers back to Bridgend College again, after an 18-month hiatus due to Covid. Our Year 12s are working hard on a production of The Wizard of Oz with Tim, the college Performing Arts tutor, while our Year 13s are learning how to cook some delicious dishes with Cath, the college's catering tutor. Transition to college is an important part of the Leavers Department experience.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS  
...every school day counts!

### Half Termly Attendance

88.5%

### Top Attenders

1. A5 — 97.9%

2. A2 — 97.7%

3. A1 — 97.2%

Please phone school if your child is absent.

## Family Matters

**FAMILY DROP IN** – We have started holding our Virtual Drop In via Microsoft Teams on a Thursday morning for the moment. There are 2 sessions 10–10.45 & 11–11.45, but we will go with the flow if an afternoon is more convenient.

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 to help complete DLA / PIP forms or any other issues please phone the school and I will arrange this for you.

**RESOURCES** – don't forget we have lots of useful resources for sale, ear defenders, chewables, radar keys (disability toilet keys), timers, fidget toys, toothpaste etc

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

### FRIENDS OF HERONSBRIDGE

We are very excited to announce that we now have a brand new Facebook group!! By joining us, you will be able to access our news, events and see how we are supporting Heronsbridge school.

## Dates for the Diary

### OCTOBER

21 Scary Hair Day  
22 Inset Day  
25–29 **Half Term**

### NOVEMBER

01 First Day back for pupils  
28 Funky Friday

### DECEMBER

20/12 – 03/01 **Christmas Hols**

### JANUARY

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



# Heronsbridge News

## Autumn 2 2021



## ★★Christmas Wishes★★



This year we were shortlisted for Platinum Employer of the Year award. Although we did not win, to be placed in the top 10 employers in the country is a huge accolade and a credit to all staff in Heronsbridge school. Well done! Our pupils have been equally successful in helping the school retain its platinum eco-school status with some new and exciting projects to help protect and develop our school grounds

Our Dog Mentors have continued to have a positive impact on our school community. Fiona has now been joined by Beau & Bernie.



### Primary

All classes have been getting into the Christmas spirit by joining in with classroom crafts and participating in Christmas sessions such as sensational singing, Dramarama and Sensory Story.

We also had a special visit from Father Christmas and as we have all been good boys and girls, received a gift.

Some of our primary pupils enjoyed resonance board sessions with Naomi Rosenberg exploring a range of instruments, storytelling and sounds, whilst feeling the sensation of the vibrations on the boards.



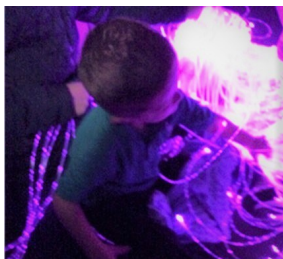
### Seniors trip to the Sherman

The senior department were excited to receive the news that they were going to the theatre! The lovely Miss Bishop applied for a 'GO & SEE' grant from the Art Council Wales, and the senior department received a very generous grant of £1000 to spend on an expressive arts trip. Seniors got their glad rags on and went to the Sherman Theatre in Cardiff. The show was Bah Humbug and was an amazing experience not only for the pupils but for the staff too! Big thank you to the theatre for accommodating our needs. Nadolig Llawen

This term we have been lucky enough to experience pumpkin picking in our local area. *Bridgend Pick Your Own Pumpkins* were generous enough to invite some of our pupils to explore their beautiful grounds. This allowed our pupils to use their senses to explore the field packed with delicious pumpkins. The pupils came away with their very own pumpkins at **no cost!** The weather was superb and the experience was amazing. The pupils of Heronsbridge would like to give a massive warm thankyou to the kind gesture and invitation. Merry Christmas from Seniors.

Well done to Bridgend Pick Your Own Pumpkin who raised a massive **£135.92!**





## Centre for Autism

It has been a very busy and exciting half term. We have nearly finished our darkrooms and have been purchasing new equipment. The fibre optics and the bubble tubes have been a great hit. We have thoroughly enjoyed our topic and made lots of exciting sensory bottles, paintings and colourful cooking!

A7 & A8 enjoyed their Christmas trip to the Amelia Trust Farm! We saw lots of farm animals and walked the Christmas trail. We had the opportunity to attend the pantomime 'Peter Pan' at Bridgend College which was lots of fun! Our 'Festive Friday' was a success, with lots of carols, Christmas cooking and a visit to the fete!

Merry Christmas from the Autistic Department!



## Leavers

Leavers joined the rest of the school in celebrating Rights Respecting Week at the end of November. The students took part in a wide variety of activities. Leavers 4 enjoyed making friends with Rexy the Rights Respecting Dinosaur, and all the students wrote letters to their friends highlighting their positive qualities and then posting them in the school's Rights Respecting post box. The Leavers all ended the week feeling very empowered!

Sadly, due to Covid restrictions we were unable to perform our Senior Show to an audience this year. However, our students had lots of fun learning Christmas songs and recording videos for parents and carers to watch instead. We hope you all enjoy our on screen Christmas celebrations as much as we enjoyed rehearsing and performing.



## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

...every school day counts!

Half Termly  
Attendance

### Top Attenders

1. A2 - 97.2
2. A1 - 95.9
3. A5 - 95.5

Please phone school  
if your child is  
absent.

## Family Matters

**SENSORY SANTA**—Thank you to everyone who participated in our virtual event.

**FAMILY DROP IN** — We have started holding our Virtual Drop In via Microsoft Teams on a Thursday morning for the moment. There are 2 sessions 10—10.45 & 11—11.45, but we will go with the flow if an afternoon is more convenient.

Our first 2022 Drop In will be Thursday 06 January, please email me and I will send you an invite. (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.

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Karen Davies Family Engagement Officer

## Dates for the Diary

### JANUARY

**04/05** — see letter from the  
**Director of Education**  
**06** - First Day back for pupils  
**28** - Funky Friday

### FEBRUARY

**21 - 25** Half Term

Check out 'Inspirational  
futures website for some ideas  
and activities to support  
children, families and teachers  
with managing their  
emotional health @  
<https://inspirationalfutures.org>

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