



# Heron's Bridge News

Summer 1 2022



## Curriculum For Wales 2022

As a school we have been working hard to design a curriculum that best meets the needs of our learners and supports the highest quality progression. Collaboration has played a vital part in it's preparation, involving our pupils, parents, governors and professional network groups which have informed our design. The four purposes, promoted by our Heron Squad are the shared vision and aspiration for every learner. Please do check the CFW area on our school website for additional information on: breadth and depth of coverage in our themes; planning for progression and how we plan to assess pupil progress; also how we plan to review and revise the curriculum to ensure it keeps working for our learners. After several years of trialling we welcome its roll out in September 22. We will be running a second parent workshop after the Family Drop In on the 23rd June @11.30am, alternatively please do get in touch with the school if you have any queries.



### Primary

We have been Sustainable Sams this term creating artwork by reusing and recycling bottle tops. Pupils throughout the school have designed and created a mural that has been displayed in Heron Hall. Class 5 pupils worked very hard to sort all the bottle tops into colours - this was a huge task as thousands had been collected and sent in by the whole school!

The mural created is our School's entry for the National Schools Partnership 'Message in a Bottle Top' competition, fingers crossed we win!

### *"We're all mad here!!"*

This half term the Primary Department have had so much fun exploring the topic 'Tell me a story'. We have learnt through the story 'Alice in Wonderland', which started off with a BIG WOW where we all dressed up as our favourite characters. It was fantastic to see so many Mad Hatters, Alices, Cheshire Cats, Queen of Hearts, Cards and White Rabbits roaming around the school—a big thank you for all the effort to make the day so wonderful. All pupils have loved exploring Alice themed activities including sensory stories, dough disco, music sessions with Mr. Jones, DYB shine and lots more.

In other news -We sadly say farewell and best wishes to Caitlyn Lloyd who has worked in the school since 2004(!!!) and Aimee Spencer who has worked at Heron's Bridge for 7 years. We wish you the best of luck in your new ventures!





## Secondary Enterprise Afternoon

This term KS4 have been very busy! They have been lucky enough to have been on many trips out on the school bus. One of the trips was to visit the stunning Bryngarw House, and the other was Bridgend Recreation centre. As part of their accreditation, they went on a mission to find themselves a venue that would suit all their needs for a Mad Hatters tea party. During their mission they looked at some beautiful places and explored some potential rooms for their tea! They had a list of important criteria that needed to be checked before making any decisions. This week pupils will present their findings to a senior leadership panel in order to finalise their plans. Once done the fun begins. Invitations, decorations and food choices will be their next agenda!

### *'Would you like an adventure or shall we have tea first?'*

This term the Secondary department have been looking at the theme, 'Tell Me A Story'. The corridors have been beautifully decorated with bunting, playing cards, dicky bows, reading books and little fluffy white animals! The story of Alice In Wonderland has been the main focus and the pupils have been creating some lovely art work. The department went on a trip to the Newport Riverfront Museum where they experienced an underground interactive wonderland, and a day in the life of 'Alice'. The pupils played croquet, ring toss, a skeleton xylophone, sat by the Mad Hatters dinner table and also experienced the upside down room! Here's one of the pupils braving the world in upside down mode! HOLD ON!!



## Centre for Autism

This term we have been exploring stories. Our sensory science sessions have been a mix of textures and lighting. Here we are creating shadows using a torch and cut outs from 'The Gruffalo'. The pupils had great fun exploring the different characters and matched them to their pictures. All of our pupils gain amazing experiences through a sensory approach, and adapting it for our science sessions has been extremely fun for everyone—including staff!

This term the Secondary pupils within the Centre For Autism have been working on extending their Literacy skills through a range of newly made resources based on 'Alice in Wonderland'. The pupils have achieved brilliant blue rewards for their skills in filling in the missing words, over writing and matching identical words.

Name: Osian

Alice



Fill in the blanks


Alice blue girl

My name is Alice.

My favourite colour dress is blue.

I am a girl.

Alice



Match the words

Alice blue girl

My name is Alice.

My favourite colour is blue.

I am a girl.





## Leavers

## Tell Me a Story

For this term's topic Leavers 1 are reading the book "A Childhood in a Welsh Mining Valley" by Vivian Jones. The students have been visiting significant mining sites in the area such as the Parc Slip mining disaster memorial and the Miner's Statue in Maesteg. The class also visited the Rhondda Heritage Park where they were given a tour of the former Lewis Merthyr Colliery. They visited the mine shafts and the engine room above ground, and were given a tour of the underground tunnels which took the miners to the coal face. The tunnels were very dark with a low roof, so it was a good job the students all had a miner's helmet on!

## The Wider World

The students in Leavers 2, with some friends, have been looking at charities in the community as part of their accreditation module, "The Wider World". They enjoyed a day out visiting a charity shop in Bridgend to find out what happens there, before going to Asda to buy items for the Bridgend Food Bank. Once they had chosen their donations, they headed for the Food Bank where their contributions were gratefully received. Well done Leavers 2—you're helping to make a difference!



## Pupil Voice-School Council & Wellbeing Warriors

The school council and wellbeing warriors have been busy this term. They were invited to represent the school at a consultation meeting on the proposal for a new Heronsbridge School with the corporate Director for Education and Family Support- Lindsay Harvey and his team. Representatives visited classes prior to the meeting to gain an understanding of what pupils would like to know about the school and what questions they would like to ask. The local authority were very impressed with the challenging nature of the questions and have invited pupils in the school to enter a competition to design the new school! At the last school council meeting (which was also joined by a pupil via



## Pupil voice -Together We Chat Podcast

A group of Leavers students have been working hard to put together Heronsbridge's first ever podcast! They say they want to "inform and entertain" their fellow pupils, staff, their families, and friends of the school. The students have chosen the topics they want to cover and the people they want to interview. The first person they wanted in the hot seat was our headteacher, Mr Evans, who was given a good grilling by the students about subjects such as the new school and what it was like being a headteacher during the pandemic. The podcast should be available to listen to by following links on the school website and via social media. It's hoped the Together We Chat Podcast will become a Heronsbridge institution and give our amazing pupils a bigger voice.



### What funding is available?

A **one-off £500 payment** is available for unpaid carers receiving Carers Allowance on 31 March 2022.

Eligible unpaid carers can claim the payment from their local council.

The money will help those who experienced extra costs because they were looking after someone during the pandemic. People who receive Carers Allowance provide over 35 hours of care each week and are on the lowest incomes.

### Who can register?

You will be eligible for the payment if:

You were receiving Carers Allowance on 31 March 2022

Your application for Carers Allowance is in progress and your claim is backdated to 31 March 2022

You live in Wales

You will not be eligible for the payment if:



Tickets can be bought via  
Friends of Heronsbridge Facebook



### 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.

Please come along for a coffee, cake and a chat.

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.

*Karen Davies*

*Family Engagement officer*

### Keeping learners safe

Scan the QR code to access information on keeping learners safe on our school website



The following link will also take you to information on how to keep safe online

<https://heronsbridge.co.uk/online-safety/>

### Half termly attendance

#### Top attenders

- |    |    |       |
|----|----|-------|
| 1. | A2 | 99.7% |
| 2. | A7 | 99.3% |
| 3. | C1 | 96.5% |

### Dates for the Diary

#### June

- |    |                |
|----|----------------|
| 06 | First day back |
|----|----------------|

#### July

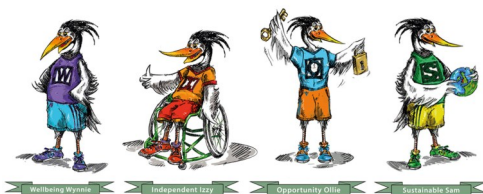
- |    |                    |
|----|--------------------|
| 01 | Friendship Day     |
| 02 | School Fete 11—4pm |
| 06 | Sports Day         |
| 19 | ROA Day            |
| 22 | INSET Day          |





# Heronbridge News

Summer 6 2022



## Friendship Festival

On 1st July we held our second annual Friendship day celebration. Wow what a vibrant, fantastic day it was for us to all come together again after such a long time apart!

A beautiful, poignant day where we celebrated all of our friends & remembered all of those who are no longer with us by decorating our Friendship celebration trees. It was full of colour, hope, love & remembrance.

Fitting with the festival theme there were craft activities, story-telling, an ice-cream van and of course lots of



### Primary

Primary had a fantastic sports day! Each child took part in a different class race including egg and spoon, collecting flowers and even jumping over hurdles as a horse! Pupils then enjoyed taking part and exploring the sensory circuit afterwards with their parents and teachers.

Lots of classes have had the opportunity to go out on a class trip or have summer fun in class with paddling pools and ice creams as a treat to keep us cool. Class 4,5 and 6 enjoyed exploring the fairy tale village in Margam Park—it was a lovely summer day and we all enjoyed having a picnic together and exploring the castle!



### Primary

Our year 6 pupils celebrated their transition to the senior school with a fabulous assembly. Every class sang and performed their favourite song finishing with Class 6 pupils sharing their favourite memories of their time in the Primary Department. Each child was able to talk about their experiences in front of an audience in their own way! Well done Mrs. Lang—you have taught them all to be Independent Izzy's ready for their next chapter!

Wishing you all good luck—we know you will be amazing!







### ***Well that was 'Mad!'***

After a long journey, KS4 have delivered their party with the support and funding from **The Friends of Heronsbridge**. What a party it was. The Recreation centre in Bridgend hosted the 'maddest' party in town. Pupils enjoyed celebrating with their friends and there were many highlights to the day. KS4—Where did you get those moves from? Entertaining their guests with a dance, and not one tomato was thrown.

Move over BGT! A well constructed inclusive party for all with a sensory room, colouring station, bubbles and a centre piece for every table! Centre piece you ask? Each class were asked to participate in a competition to make a centre piece. The winner was..... C7,C8 & T5! Well done guys!



**All remaining food from the party was collected by a representative from 'The Bridge Alternative'**

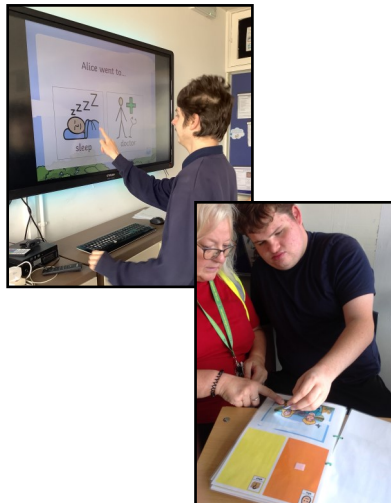


***Together we really can!***

### ***It's a race to the finish line!***

Another year, another sports day done! Sports day is an important part of the school year at Heronsbridge School as the pupils get to interact with their peers from different departments in the luxurious sunshine. Sports day was run a little different this year with extra events under the gazebos—with yoga, sensory fun and much more. Pupils enjoyed sports day and many showed great leadership skills and also amazing sporting potential. As we all know physical education and sport is important for the development of healthy children and young people. Well done to those who took part and a big thank you for the coffee shop for the refreshments!

Stay safe during the summer holidays!



**Centre for Autism—Tell me a story**  
As part of this term's theme. Secondary CFA pupils became immersed in the curiosities of Alice in Wonderland. Not only reading the story but also creating their own props to enact their version of the story. Activities ranged from playing croquet on the lawn, following the white rabbit and not forgetting the Mad Hatter's tea party held at Louchi's tea room!



### **Centre for Autism goes virtual!!**

We have been having a range of digital sessions across all classes in the department to improve our skills and to experience new technology. One of our favourites has been using our new virtual reality headsets. We have been to lots of different places using the VR goggles, including Times Square, under the sea, on the beach, on top of Mount Everest and even into space! We have been working on using the headsets appropriately, turn taking, navigating environments and making choices. We can't wait to use them more next term!





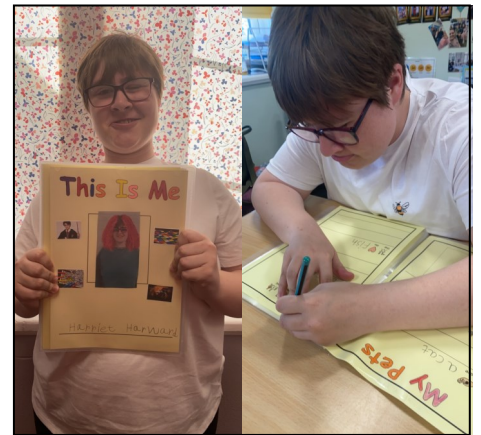


## Leavers: Farewell to our Year 14s

It's that bitter sweet time of year when we say goodbye to our oldest students and wish them luck for their next adventure, whether it's college, day centre or a different pathway. Our Year 14s are going out with a bang—they enjoyed a three-day trip to London, where they took in all the sights and represented the school brilliantly, and they dressed up and celebrated their time at Heronsbridge at their ROA ceremony and Prom. All the staff and the rest of the students wish you all the luck and happiness in the world—you are amazing and we will miss you!

## Leavers: Tell Me a Story Autobiographies

The school's topic this term has been "Tell Me a Story". The students in Leavers 3 have been studying Roald Dahl's autobiographical book "Boy" and have used it as inspiration to create their own autobiographies. They have been working hard putting together their own individual books with lots of photographs and information about their life, their family and what they like to do. The books look amazing and are good enough to get published!



Children's Commissioner for Wales

RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOLS

## Heronsbridge School Charter

We ALL have the right to....

Article 29  
I have the right to an education which develops my personality, respect for others' rights and the environment.

Article 15  
I have the right to meet with friends and to join groups

Article 12  
I have the right to be listened to, and taken seriously

Article 24  
I have the right to good quality health care, to clean water and good food.

Article 23  
If I have a disability, I have the right to special care and education.

Article 31  
I have a right to relax and play.

The School Council voted upon the following articles as being important to our school life at Heronsbridge.

Article 2 States, "All children have these rights no matter what!"

Signed : Mr Evans Head teacher

School Council Members: 2021-2022

Kian Rowlands  
 Issey Darroch  
 Alfie J  
 Morgan  
 Aisling O'Leary

Together We Can

## Pupil Voice: School council

The school council have completed the new school charter, selecting some of the Rights of the Child articles which they felt best reflected pupils' views and were important to them and for school life at Heronsbridge. This has been distributed to all classes for display

The school council are currently working on creating a keeping learners safe poster to help remind their peers how to keep safe and who to ask for help if they need it. They have asked if they can talk to their peers about their ideas for keeping safe in a whole school assembly next term and we can't wait to see and hear them speak!

## KIDS EAT FOR FREE OR LESS DURING SUMMER 2022



### MORRISONS

Spend £4.99 to get a free kids meal after 3pm daily, normally all day during half term.

### ASDA CAFE

Kids eat for £1 every day with NO need for a paying adult from 25th July - 4th Sept, 2022.

### DUNELM

One free mini main, two snacks and a drink for every £4 spent in the in-store cafe.

**YO!** Kids eat free from 3pm-5:30pm Mon-Thurs for every £10 spent on food.

### BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE

Free breakfast for two children under 16 with every paying adult.

### HUNGRY HORSE

Free kids breakfast with an adults breakfast from 9am-12pm daily.

### IKEA

Get TWO kids hot meals, fruit, drink and jelly for £5 in their Swedish restaurants (subject to availability).

### BELLA ITALIA

Kids eat for £1 with each adult meal from 4-6pm on Mon-Thurs.

### DOBBIES

Kids eat free with an adult main meal.

### TABLE TABLE

Two children under 16 get a free breakfast with one paying adult every day.

### CAFE ROUGE

Kids eat for £1 with an adult meal excluding Saturday.

### MORE TO COME!!

M&S, TESCO and more expected soon, see websites for latest information.

**ARE YOU A YOUNG CARER?**

• Are you under the age of 18?  
• Do you help look after someone in your family?  
• The person you look after could be ill, elderly, have a learning or physical disability, substance or alcohol misuse or a mental health condition

**If you are a young carer we can:**

- Give one to one support
- Information on carers issues
- Peer support - including trips and monthly groups
- Support to manage your caring role alongside your education
- We also support Young Adult Carers aged 16 - 25.
- Training opportunities

If you would like more information please contact Bridgend Carers Centre

www.bridgendcarers.co.uk  
rhian.watts@bridgendcarers.co.uk  
01696 658479 / 07384 813685

**Are you a family receiving free school meals?**

With the cost of living still increasing some of our customers may struggle to afford essentials over the summer period. We are here to help, with up to £230 off your water bill.

If you're in receipt of any of the following benefits you could be eligible for financial help:

- Pension Credit
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income Support
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Child Tax Credit
- Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit
- Housing Benefit
- Council Tax Reduction/Support

SAVE UP TO **£230**

Call us to talk through your options 0800 052 0145  
Visit us online for more information [dwrcymru.com/HelpWithBills](http://dwrcymru.com/HelpWithBills)

**IMPETUS DANCE**  
Children's Inclusive Dance Class

**FREE SUMMER TASTER SESSIONS**

Pencoed Comprehensive School, CF35 5LZ  
5th August, 19th August and 2nd September  
5.00pm-6.00pm

For more information contact:-  
[Impetusdance@outlook.com](mailto:Impetusdance@outlook.com)

## FAMILY MATTERS

Please have a look at our website for activities and events happening this Summer hols.

[www.héronsbridge.co.uk](http://www.héronsbridge.co.uk)

Families / Family Notice Board / Events.

## CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

If you require support filling in DLA, PIP please give me a call or email and I will arrange a confidential appointment.

[Karen.davies@heronsbridge.bridgend.cymru](mailto:Karen.davies@heronsbridge.bridgend.cymru)

Karen Davies

Family Engagement Officer

## Keeping learners safe

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## Half termly attendance

Top attenders

1. A8 98.4%

2. N5 96.8%

## Dates for the Diary

### SEPTEMBER

5 Inset Day

6 Inset Day

7 First Day for Pupils