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Well, isn't this year flying by? It's hard to believe that there is just half a term left of this academic year! In this Newsletter, we'll have a look at what's been happening during the past few months as well as looking forward to some exciting things with which you can be involved.

Play Zone & Pizza



Initially funded via a BAVO grant, our play sessions at Soft Landings Play Zone have proved very popular for pupils and their carers alike: while the children are having great fun playing, their carers enjoy time together, just chatting or getting support and advice from each other and School staff. As you can see from the pictures, the Christmas and Easter sessions included some very special guests. Places for these sessions are secured with a nominal fee, the proceeds of which have been donated to other local charities. We also held a Pizza Party at the School last term.



Festive Fun



We were thrilled to be able to host our first **Annual Christmas Concert** (with guests, including Take Note) since 2019. The **Christmas Raffle** took place during the event, as did the presentation of a cheque from **Bridgend Municipal Bowls Club** who had invited us to sell tickets for our Christmas Raffle at their Christmas Fayre and had very generously topped up the proceeds. The total raised from these activities was in excess of £1000.

Every year, the Friends provide up to £15 per pupil for a Christmas present from Santa (a.k.a. Del Owen). Pictured are two of our pupils with the gifts they received last year.



Hollie's Haircut



One of our most recent fundraising events took place in March when pupil, **Hollie Evans**, had her hair cut by Mr Evans during a whole school assembly. Hollie (who is pictured with her sister and Mr Evans) raised £400 for the Friends and donated the cut hair to a charity who make wigs for children who have lost their hair due to cancer treatment.

We've had a look at what's happened since our last Newsletter... so what's next?

Heronbridge Summer Ball

Tickets for our Summer Ball, which takes place at the **Heronston Hotel & Spa** on **Saturday 24 June**, cost £40 and can be obtained via Eventbrite (please see our Facebook page for further details). The price includes a Prosecco reception, three course meal (with coffee and mints) and entertainment, as well as an auction and a selfie mirror for you to enjoy.

If you, or anybody you know, have a business and would like to sponsor a table on the night, please let us know. For £50, we will display leaflets/cards around the room for you. We are also looking for auction lots. Please send any donations into school (FAO Siarlot Hall) or message us (via the email address above or our Facebook page) to arrange collection.

Cream Tea at Parents' Afternoon/Evening

Parents' Afternoon/Evening takes place on **Wednesday 28 June** and will be face to face for the first time since before the pandemic. We are very pleased to be able to, once again, offer refreshments (free of charge) in Heron Hall while you wait to see your child's teacher.

Annual Summer Fête

This year's event takes place on **Saturday 1 July**. You will notice a few changes this year, although we will still have the bar, burgers and other familiar stalls. Come along and join the fun any time from 11am to 3pm. There will also be opportunity to support the Bridgend Herons Inclusive Team at the football tournament which will take place at the same time.

Summer Raffle

This year's Raffle will be drawn on **Wednesday 5 July**. Prizes include cash, free entry to the Friends' Lottery for a year, vouchers etc. Two books will be sent home with each pupil during the week after half term: if you would like more books (for you and your family or to sell on the Friends' behalf) or are able to donate prizes, please let us know.

Meet the Animals

We are hosting an animal encounter in Heron Hall on **Sunday 9 July**. Come along and meet meerkats, armadillos, snakes and many more. Further details will be posted on our Facebook page in due course.

Getting Involved

Thank you for your continued support of the Friends of Heronsbridge. Don't forget that every penny we raise directly benefits the pupils. Here are some of the ways in which you can get involved:

- Come along to one of our events ,
- Donate an auction lot for the Ball or a prize for our Summer Raffle,
- Buy or sell raffle tickets for the Summer Raffle or join the Friends' lottery

