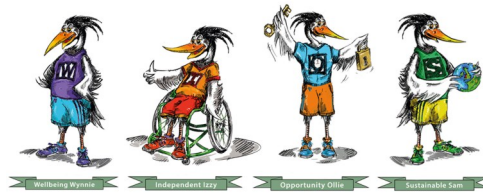




# Heron's Bridge News

Autumn 1 2022



## Headline News



### We 'R' expanding!

After much planning and preparation, a great deal of work took place during the summer holidays to convert part of Bridgend College into an extra teaching area for pupils within the Centre for Autism (CFA). The area, known as block R accommodates three senior CFA classes and reflects the growing number of pupils within the school and CFA. There is still work to do in block R and an enormous thank you must go to the staff in those classes for their positive 'can do' attitude which has helped the pupils cope with the transition and many changes to their daily routine.



### Primary welcomes 12 new pupils!

During the first half term the Primary Department have welcomed many new pupils into the school, including 7 pupils in Early Years, 3 pupils in Class 2 and 2 pupils in TP—all pupils have settled in brilliantly! In September Class 4 went on a trip to Barry Island. They attended the annual beach party held by Barry Rotary. All pupils and staff were given tokens for chips and ice cream, the weather was beautiful and everyone enjoyed playing in the sand—some of us even got buried! Class TP have also been out and about and have visited Bryngarw Park every Tuesday as part of the 'Fun, Food, and Fitness' topic—excellent exploring our locality, you have been Sustainable Sam's this term!

All pupils in Primary enjoyed exploring the BIG WOW to kick start our current topic 'Fun, Food and Fitness'. Pupils (and lots of staff!) explored a gigantic inflatable obstacle course, got their hands messy in lots of different foods in the sensory tent and some pupils had the opportunity to enjoy a hydro BIG WOW.

Lots of Primary classes have experienced the VR headsets which allows our pupils to explore different landscapes, countries and even the ocean and sky! Lots of fantastic exploring, feeling and looking this term—some real Opportunity Ollies!





## Seniors

### New term, new topic, new adventures!

Can you tell which part of our topic, **fun, food & fitness**, this happy young lady is enjoying? During this term the secondary department have certainly had lots of fun! They have taken part in many different activities including, the big WOW in hydro, the sensory tent, Hello yellow day, Macmillan coffee morning and more. Also, as a department, we came together to celebrate the life of our late *Queen Elizabeth II*.

### Exercise? Thought you said extra fries!

Healthy eating and being active is very important for a healthy heart, body and mind. It increases our fitness levels and helps us build on our muscles and strength. Heronsbridge School have always been keen walkers. Pupils walk around the school grounds and clock up the miles. The pupils enjoy the exercise and also benefit from the fresh air. Some classes have also taken part in a bleep test...



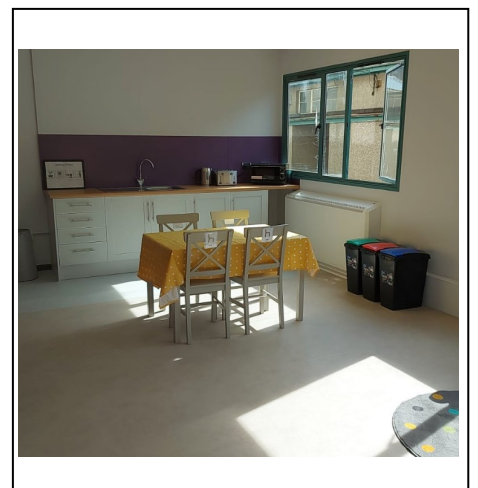
## Centre for Autism

We have had a very busy half term, we have welcomed several new pupils and staff into the department. All have settled in well and are enjoying all aspects of school life!

Our topic 'Fun Food and Fitness' has been very popular especially the food and fun element. The pupils have explored a range of foods creating wonderful and weird concoctions, but the favourite part was the gigantic inflatable assault course for our Big Wow!

## Centre for Autism

It has been exciting times for the Autistic department. Class A7, A8 & A9 have moved over to R block at Bridgend College. We had the opportunity to design the bottom floor, we have a Life Skills room, AoLE room, Snack area, Sensory, Recreation and Leisure room. All pupils have settled well and have enjoyed the space. In the last couple of weeks classes from the main building have been accessing the rooms and have loved the facilities.





## Welcome to Leavers!

It's a new academic year so it's a big welcome to the Leavers department for our new students! Our newbies have been able to enjoy the full range of new experiences offered in the Leavers department, from work-based learning to weekly visits to Bridgend College. At the other end of the Leavers' experience, our year 14 students are preparing for life after Heronsbridge. They enjoyed a visit to a careers fair, where they were able to discover employment opportunities they could access after College.

## Students coached by Scarlets Star

Wellbeing is one of our most important values at Heronsbridge and some of our Leavers students have been lucky enough to experience top level sports coaching from Scarlets rugby star Phil Price! Phil has started training our multi-sports students in their Wednesday games sessions so we're looking forward to seeing their sports skills developing over the coming months. If you look closely, you may see a resemblance to our school's head of PE Mr Price - they are brothers!



HERONSBRIDGE SCHOOL  
Together We Can

SCHOOL COUNCIL  
TALK TO SOMEONE YOU TRUST  
ASK FOR HELP  
YOUR BODY

STAYING SAFE ONLINE  
ANIMALS  
FRIENDS AND RELATIONSHIPS  
ENVIRONMENT  
RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

## Pupil Voice:

When our school council met for the first time this term, I asked them what they wanted to do this year. This resulted in a very lively debate about school dinners! As a result we decided to put together a questionnaire and invited students to take part in a survey. We will be looking at the results of this survey during our next meeting. They have also created a suggestion box and encouraged students to post ideas and comments which will be viewed at each school council meeting.

The school council are also continuing to work on a

school dinners survey

Do you have school dinners or packed lunches?  
packed lunches?

Do you like school dinners?  
Do you like bread and butter?

Do you like school dinners?  
Do you like school dinners?  
Do you like school dinners?  
Do you like school dinners?

BRING BACK HOT PUDDINGS

## A message from the Children's commissioner for Wales

Beth yw'r materion mwyaf pwysig i bobl ifanc?  
Rydyn ni eisiau clywed eich syniadau a phrofiadau  
mewn holiadur newydd - Gobeithion i Gymru

What are the biggest issues for young people? We  
want to hear your ideas and experiences in a new  
survey - Ambitions for Wales



Please scan the QR code to access the  
survey. Closing date 5th November



Comisiynydd  
Plant Cymru  
Children's  
Commissioner  
for Wales

WORLD'S BIGGEST  
**COFFEE  
MORNING**

**MACMILLAN  
CANCER SUPPORT**



Thank you to all those who donated to our Macmillan coffee morning. The pupils and staff had a lovely time and with your help we raised £374.69 for this worthy charity.



**BRING  
&  
BUY  
SALE**

Refreshments  
available  
All

**THURSDAY  
NOVEMBER 10TH  
10 - 12.30  
HERON HALL**

**Welcome  
Come along and  
Bag  
a  
Bargain.**



If your child is unable to attend school, please phone the office on 01656 815725 before 9.00am on the first day of absence and each morning thereafter (unfortunately we

**Please visit Gov.wales to check eligibility for the 'Wales Fuel' support Scheme Payment.**

**FAMILY MATTERS**

**FAMILY INFORMATION DAY**

Thank you to everyone who supported our Information Day along with our Careers event. A brilliant morning with lots of advice for families.

**FAMILY DROP IN**

Our Family Drop In is held every Tuesday from 9.15 until 12. Come along have a coffee and a chat.

Everyone is welcome.

Please feel free to contact me on  
01656 815725 at any time

Karen Davies

**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. Class 10 98.8%
2. A3 97.3%

**Dates for the Diary**

**NOVEMBER**

- 10 Bring & Buy
- 11 Bags2School
- 25 Sensory Santa

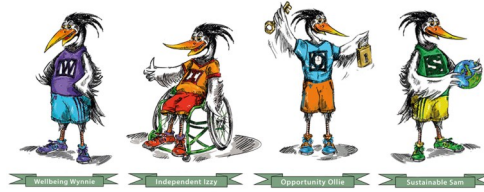
**DECEMBER**

- 6 Friends Carol Concert
- 8 Primary concert
- 9 Primary concert
- 14 Secondary concert
- 15 Secondary concert
- 16 Pupil Christmas Fete
- 20 Christmas Jumper Day
- 22 Last day for pupils



# Heron's Bridge News

Autumn 2 2022



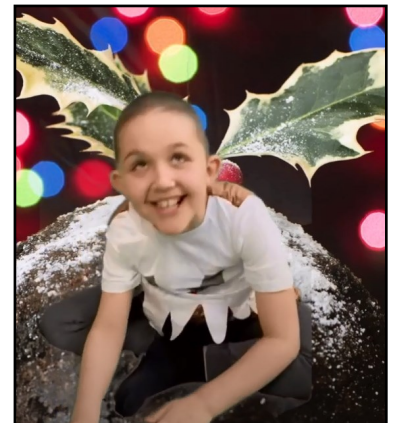
## Rights Respecting Week

RRS Week 21st–25th November. This year we interacted with a story called “Part Of The Party”. This story is about a young Koala who is invited to a Mother and Daughter Disco which she can't attend as she has two Daddy's. Worry not, they worked something out and everyone got to go in the end! We focused on Articles 5,9,18,20,25 and 27, which help us understand that we have rights about being with our families, being looked after if we aren't and being safe. The week also had a strong focus on Diversity—Families come in all shapes, colours and sizes but all are connected by love. Amongst other activities, every pupil made a lollipop house showing their family members, which we have displayed in the school foyer. The pupils took part in an art competition, well done to Class4! The week ended with an enjoyable Disco Party, everyone was invited!



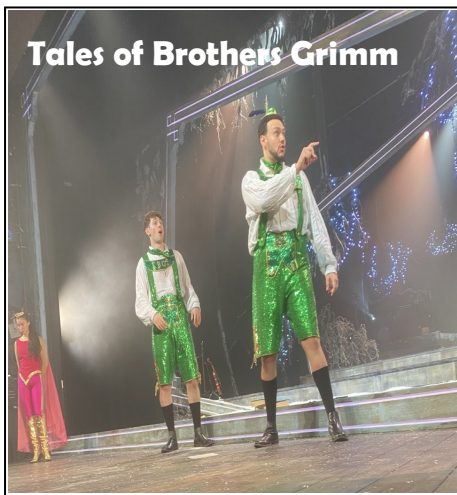
### Primary /CFA Concert

The Primary and Centre For Autism put on 'The Gingerbread Man' this year, which saw the Gingerbread Man (played by Addiena Lambert– Worgan) escape being eaten by Mrs. Claus, Strictly Dancers, Elves, Teddies, Reindeers, Footballers, Christmas Puddings, Grumpy Sheep, the I'm a Celebrity cast, Dancers and the Animal Band to deliver her sack of special things to the baby Jesus! The show was fantastic—a wonderful range of costumes, props, songs and acting! A big thank you to the parents for supporting the show with the costumes, and an extra special thank you and well done to every pupil who took part!



### Primary

All pupils in Primary have been working hard this half term with Christmas concert practise—but it hasn't been all work and no play! Pupils had the opportunity to go over to Bridgend College to watch 'Cinderella' in panto which was fantastic! Some pupils have had the opportunity to attend the Bridgend Masonic Christmas party, and some classes have been out and about to celebrate Christmas, class TP enjoyed a trip to Harvester for breakfast followed by bowling in Cardiff. Class 5 loved their trip to Wiggly's farm and getting to feed the animals a special festive feed! All Primary classes took part in Rights Respecting week in November where we celebrated the diversity of families with the week ending in a disco!



## Tales of Brothers Grimm

### Seniors

## Oh yes we did!

Pupils enjoyed a fantastic show at the Sherman Theatre in Cardiff.

What better way to finish off a term than to enjoy a festive experience with all your friends. Pupils had a pleasant time watching this new spectacular show which was performed by some dramatic and eye-catching cast of actor musicians. The show was bright, loud and exciting to see.

Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty and Rapunzel were waiting for their Happy Ever After, but did it come? Of course it came!

A magical show shown to a magical audience.



### Ho Ho Ho!

The spirit of Christmas is flooding through our school in the run up to Christmas. Pupils have been given an early Christmas gift from the

'The Friends of Heronsbridge'

Each class were given £100 to spend on Christmas crafts and pupils have enjoyed every second of their gift experience so far. They even sold some of the Christmas cards they made at the school Christmas fete!

Some classes in seniors have put together their very own Christmas packs which includes sewing your own stocking, Christmas wind chimes, story books, funny glasses, colouring books and much more. A big thank you to the Friends of Heronsbridge for all the opportunities you give us now, and in the future.



### Centre for Autism

We have had a very busy half term, full of festive fun. We have all participated in our concert "The Gingerbread Man", which was great fun!

We have all been very busy in class with Christmas crafts, activities, stories and songs. We enjoyed a visit to the Sony theatre to watch the pantomime Cinderella. A good time was had by all.

This term we have participated in Attention Autism sessions based on 'The Gingerbread Man.' We have been immersed in all sorts of sensory activities to engage pupils attention, increase our attention in adult led activities and develop a shared enjoyment in group activities.





## Leavers

In Leavers, we prepare our students for life after school. We visited a careers fair which has given our students some ideas for their future. They were able to learn about lots of jobs and industries at the “What’s Next” event in Merthyr Leisure Centre, including construction, beauty, and the Police and Fire services. There were even some animals there for the students to see, including a snake!

Our Leavers students have been in the Christmas spirit this half term! Some students from the Duke of Edinburgh group visited a care home where they delivered Christmas cards, did Christmas crafts and sang Christmas songs, entertaining the residents. Our students also worked hard practising for the Christmas concert. They all sang their hearts out in the church, and our readers did a brilliant job. We hope all the families and carers watching enjoyed it as much as we did.



**YPOP  
LGBTQIA+ YOUTH GROUP  
BRIDGEND**

COME AND SOCIALISE IN A FRIENDLY AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT  
EVERY MONDAY EVENING 5-6PM  
@EVERGREEN HALL

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT LOIS SUTTON ON:  
LOIS.SUTTON@BRIDGEND.GOV.UK OR 07829375237

### Pupil Voice

There are community groups in Bridgend which pupils can attend if they feel it is something they would like to be part of. The information is on these posters.

Some pupils attended a ‘hackthon’ this term, which was organised by RCT regional partnerships. During this event they discussed issues that worried them and ways in which their community could be made safer and more accessible. Artists supported the event and created an amazing picture board

**BRIDGEND YOUTH COUNCIL**

Come and have a say on the things that matter to you!  
Every 3rd Wednesday from 5-6pm  
@Evergreen Hall / Civic Offices  
Bridgend.

For more information contact Lois Sutton or  
Claire Davies on Youthcouncil@bridgend.gov.uk

**SAFE**

- Football club
- Football tournaments
- GROUPS: hobbies with people you trust, want more clubs & events rather than standing on the street, want more groups, more accessible
- Support STAFF: School counsellors
- Friendly faces: people you trust
- Disco: getting people engaged in them
- SAFE: community groups, drama clubs
- Supported Activities: people might try and sell you drugs, feeling too old to be in the park

**UNSAFE**

- feeling Different
- feeling less
- Hospitals: Scary, No Lifts
- Hospitals Boring & No colour
- Barrier - Changing Facilities
- Crowded
- CYBER BULLYING: worry about getting in to Trouble

**NEED MORE COLOUR!**

**CHANGE BULLYING IN SCHOOL**

would like to walk but some places are too far, have to travel a lot to get anywhere

**WE WANT:**

- Trusted Adults: No one to talk to
- Media Coverage: everything is sensationalized
- CAFES: Hackathon in the school! to feel like part of a team
- Pandemic: Stopped old routines
- Ukraine war
- Cost of living crisis
- NEWS: news is not told, it's sold
- getting information over social media
- trying things & knowing what's available
- Things in walking distance: unsteady on my feet
- Street lighting: don't know who is going to jump out - scared
- Somewhere to go outside of the house - Can't stay locked in forever
- support & confidence



## Coffee Shop Creations

Students working in the coffee shop have been busy creating a range of festive treats which have been on sale over the past few weeks. They definitely taste as good as they look!!



## FAMILY MATTERS

### SENSORY SANTA

Thank you to everyone who supported our event, parents and families bought lots of pressies and gathered ideas. Also enjoyed the coffee and mince pies!!!!

### BRING & BUY

Our first Bring & buy for 3 years raised over £300 for the school, thank you to everyone who donated clothes and came along . Pop June 15th on your calendar as a reminder for our next one

### FAMILY DROP IN

Our Family Drop In is held every Tuesday from 9.15 until 12. Come along have a coffee and a chat.

Everyone is welcome.

Please feel free to contact me on

01656 815725 at any time.

Karen.davies@heronsbridge.bridgend.cymru



Save up to  
£230

## Are you worried about the cost of Christmas?

If you claim means tested and/or disability benefits, we have lots of financial support options available that could help you save on your water bill.



We're here to help

Call us to talk through your options: 0800 052 0145

Visit us online for more info: [dwrcymru.com/helpwithbills](http://dwrcymru.com/helpwithbills)



Please visit [Gov.wales](http://Gov.wales) to check eligibility for the 'Wales Fuel' support Scheme Payment.



Attendance to date 87.5%

Half term-Top attenders

1. Class 10 98.8%
2. A3 97.3%
3. L4 96.9%

If your child is unable to attend school, please phone the office on 01656 815725 before 9.00am on the first day of absence and

## Keeping learners safe

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

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

If you have any concerns during the holidays or at the weekends,

## Dates for the Diary

### DECEMBER

22 Last day for pupils

### JANUARY

9 First day back for pupils

### FEBRUARY

