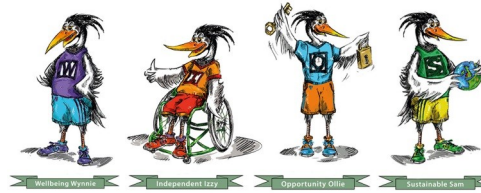




Heron's Bridge News

Autumn 1 2023



#HelloYellow



There was a sea of yellow in the school on Friday 13th October as students and staff were invited to wear something yellow to raise awareness of World Mental Health Day. Across the school we had a wonderful time taking part in a range of activities to raise awareness for positive mental health, resilience, confidence and the importance of their wellbeing. This year's theme was 'stand out and show up for young people's mental health', and to celebrate that everyone had a great time snapping photos in the photobooth. We are looking forward to the spring when we will see the school awash with the sunshine colour of the daffodils which students planted to remember #HelloYellow Day!



Primary

New pupils were welcomed to the Department during our Thursday assembly. Everyone gave them a big cheer to help them settle in. They are happy in their new classes and making lots of new friends.

We have had an exciting start to the year with our topic 'Let Me Entertain You' learning all about the circus! We have taken part in lots of class based activities such as splatting custard pies and throwing wet sponges at the teachers! This was great fun. We have dressed up in silly wigs, been strong men and women, walked the tightrope in sensory story and had a go at spinning plates in DYB.

Primary

Class 5 pupils have been Wellbeing Wynnies again this term attending RDA every week experiencing how exercise is fun!

Class 5 & 6 have also been busy doing a weekly class shop buying items ready for their cookery session. They have been learning to navigate around the shop, and then find and use the correct coins to pay for their goods! Amazing Independent Izzy's all.

All classes have enjoyed getting ready for Halloween by joining in with the co-authored sensory story and completing arts and crafts in class. We then finished with a spooky trick or treat and disco on Friday!





What do you get if you cross two primary teaching, singer song writing, music lovers?

ROCKTOPUS!

Rocktopus rocked up and brought their inclusive workshop to Heronsbridge. Music is excellent for children's mental and physical wellbeing and Rocktopus inspired our love of live music and song writing and engaged our learners in an enthusiastic way. Music develops our emotional, communication and motor skills, and enhances our memory and focusing skills.

Ks4 at work

The start of this year has been busy and exciting. Key stage 4 pupils have continued their weekly visit to Pen-Y-Bont football club to develop their work-based learning skills. By successfully completing work-based learning programs, students gain confidence in their abilities and this confidence extends beyond the workplace and positively impacts other areas of our pupils lives.

Thank you to Pen-Y-Bont for their support!



Centre for Autism

A big welcome to all our new pupils to the department this term, they have all settled fantastically and we hope they are enjoying themselves as they start their Heronsbridge journey. We have been thoroughly enjoying our new topic this term 'Let Me Entertain You'.

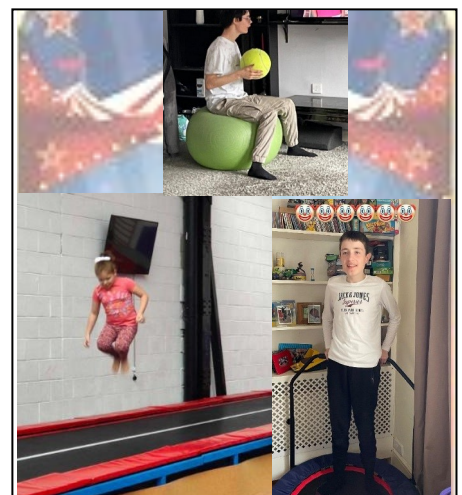
We have delved into some circus themed activities including trapeze art, hotdog making, designing clown bows, cream pie splatting, candy floss making and circus games. We're ready to run away and join the circus!

Centre for Autism

Our shared learning has kicked off this term on our new purple mash blog. We've been sharing weekly what we've been getting up to in school and have been delighted to see the continuation of learning at home.

Don't forget to check it out login to <https://www.purplemash.com/heron> with your child's login details. Click 'sharing' at the top left of the page. Go to 'shared blogs' tab and select 'Circus Shared Learning' and take a look at what we've been up to in school.

Keep uploading your weekend circus activities too! We love to see them!



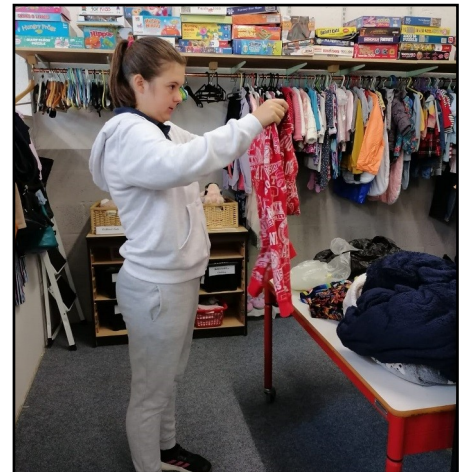


Leavers

It's a new school year and a new home for the Leavers Department. The whole department has moved from the main Heronsbridge School building to R Block in Bridgend College. Staff and students have worked hard to make the new classrooms and corridors feel like home. Brilliant Blues to our students for being Opportunity Ollies and settling in so well.

Leavers

Heronbridge's answer to Vinted has opened its doors this term. The Recycle Shop is the latest work-based learning enterprise, offering staff, students and their families the opportunity to be Sustainable Sams. Students can learn valuable skills such as customer service, handling money, hospitality, steaming and hanging clothes. Donations in good condition are welcome and all proceeds are used for school initiatives. Hot drinks and biscuits available!



School council.

A huge thank you to our school council for meeting with one of the school inspectors at the beginning of October. They were eager to take the inspector on a tour of the school and talk about all the things they did. The pride they have in our school and the importance of being in the school council was evident and I was so proud of them! We have been working on pupil friendly policies and during the last meeting ratified the hygiene policy. The school council will be hosting a 'Let Me Entertain You' show for all pupils and staff to take part in at the end of term so get practising all

Staff wellbeing

Staff have been enjoying breakfast clubs twice a week with toast and a cuppa provided for them, a great way to connect and is a positive start to the day. During Drop in sessions in Ty Cwtch staff have been taking a well deserved break from the hustle and bustle of school life to catch up, share ideas, worries or concerns whilst relaxing to the soothing sounds of gentle music, a water fountain and the calming effects of essential oils. October is world menopause month and we supported staff with a menopause café sharing ideas around this topic. At our monthly drop in session, staff enjoyed the healing benefits of Metta meditation cultivating compassion and kindness for themselves and towards others with this loving-kindness meditation.



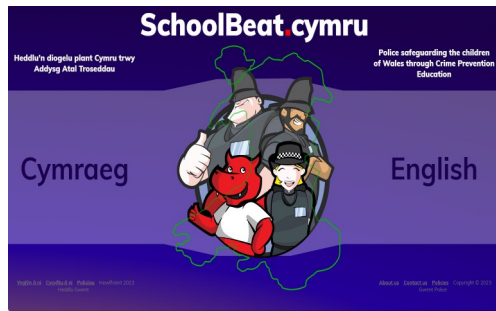


Good bye and good luck Beth!

Beth has been working with pupils at Heronsbridge for 18 months and has made a huge impact in school, supporting staff and pupils with physio and movement programs, as well as being a font of all knowledge. Parents have also benefitted from Beth's experience and dedication. We are sorry to see Beth go and wish her all the very best in her future endeavours. Thank you for everything you have done. Keep in touch!



In the past, parents have asked if school could help with hair cutting due to the difficulties with accessing a hairdresser. A parent of a former pupil is offering her services, which we may be able to organise at school if there is sufficient interest. If this is something you might find beneficial. Please could you pop a note in your child's home school book and we will go from there.



Héronsbridge are once again working with PC Matt McDonald who will be delivering sessions to pupils over the course of the year. SchoolBeat.Cymru is a bilingual site from the All Wales School Liaison Core Programme, providing information and resources for pupils, teachers, parents and partners to reinforce key messages delivered by our School Community

FAMILY MATTERS

Family Information Day

Thank you to everyone who supported our Family Information Day. It was a great morning with lots of advice for families. If you would like any further information or contacts from the day then please don't hesitate to get in touch.

FAMILY DROP IN

Our family drop in will be starting back up after half term. Every Tuesday 9:30—12. Come along and have a coffee and a chat. Everyone is welcome.

Please feel free to contact us at any time

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. C6 95.8%
1. A4 95.8%
3. C9 94.0%

Dates for the Diary

Half term

Monday 30th October—Friday 3rd November

November

20 Rights Respecting Schools week

December

- 6 Primary carol concert
- 7 Primary carol concert
- 13 Secondary Christmas Show
- 14 Secondary Christmas Show
- 15 Pupils Christmas Fete
- 22 Last day of term