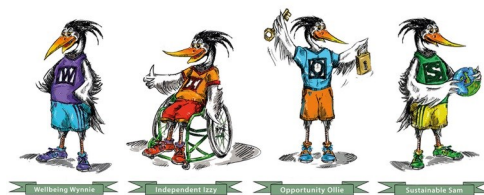




# Newyddion Heronsbridge

Follow us on / Dilyn ni

## Tymor y Gwanwyn 2024



# We're 'Moving' on up!

We are so proud to have achieved our Move Bronze Quality Mark! Our MOVE pupils have worked so hard and are becoming more confident and independent and have been supported every 'step of the way' by our skilled and amazing staff, families and physiotherapists Gwaith Ffantastig!!



## Primary

We all celebrated 'Dydd Gŵyl Dewi' on March 1st—a special day for us to show we are proud of our Welsh heritage. There were songs, dancing and art work—daffodils a plenty in all shapes and forms. It was great to see the pupils in their costumes and rugby shirts.

To promote well being some of our pupils have been exploring Equine Therapy—getting to know Boo the miniature Shetland pony, brushing her and leading her to walk - Rydyn ni'n hoffi Boo



## Primary

World Book Day was another opportunity to dress up ( staff and pupils) and celebrate books and reading. We all paraded around the school grounds in our costumes and swapped books

To promote a love of reading and books we have set up a couple of "Flashlight Friday" reading groups, where pupils buddy up and enjoy reading and storytime, snuggled up in the dark with their torches. Reading is fun—Mae darllen yn hwyl !





### Secondary

The Secondary department love a trip—and what a busy term we have had out and about! Pupils across the department visited Caerleon Roman Baths for our topic 'A Long Time Ago'. Many enjoyed dressing up in Roman armour and some of us learnt about the gory ways they were treated for their illnesses way back when. You can keep the drills away from us if we have a headache! **Ych-a-fi!**

Secondary Sensory learners visited St Fagan's to experience and explore Welsh history and culture through real life experiences, **am hwy!** Other trips throughout the term have included bowling at Hollywood Bowl for 'Sensory wellbeing days' (Class 13), exploring Bridgend Library for 'World Book Day' (Class 7), and a trip to the Odeon to 'Explore Film Genres' as part of WJEC accredited work (Class 11).

### Secondary

Lots of fantastic participation this term in a range of events and activities, including a Year 9 and 10 trip to Llangrannog where it has been reported everyone got stuck in the escape rooms but all have lived to tell the tale! All pupils took part in the Senior School Eisteddfod showcasing their talents including art, poetry and song! The winners were Penybont! **Llongyfarchiadau Penybont!** Pupils have also taken part in a 6 Nations rugby tournament in Trinity Fields and an Ospreys 6 Nations tournament.

A group of pupils competed in an inaugural table cricket competition at the Sport Centre Wales Cardiff. They won all pool matches before clinching the final! The final will take place during the Summer term in Lords!!! What a fantastic opportunity! **'Da iawn pawb!'**



### Centre for Autism

We have thoroughly enjoyed our topic this term of 'A Long Time Ago!' It all launched at the beginning of term with Dinomania UK paying us a visit with some of their fantastic animatronic dinosaurs. This inspired us to step back in time and explore the land of dinosaurs as one of our time periods. We went on dinosaur hunts, fossil digs, created our own fossils, explored volcanoes and investigated how we could recreate eruptions! Some excellent learning opportunities and activities for the pupils in the Primary CFA!

### Centre for Autism

We have been experimenting with our own Artificial Intelligence tools in the department this term. AI is very much a part of our digital world so our learners have been exploring different tools to enhance some of our skills. Have you ever seen a pink dinosaur with 6 legs and 2 tails? Well we certainly have in our department this term! We used our image booklets to select characteristics of what we would like our dinosaurs to look like and then chose our favourite image for our creations!





## Leavers

The Year 14s have been preparing for their next steps by visiting Pencoed College. They really enjoyed exploring the canteen, learning lounge, the life skills house and getting to know the tutors. Our students will be taking part in more transition activities such as this before they leave us in July.

## Leavers

As part of our accreditation, our Leavers life skills group have been thinking about activities they can do in their free time. Having expressed an interest in reading, the students visited and became members of Bridgend Library. We enjoyed exploring the facility and borrowing our first books. Let's hope we avoid any late fees!



We would like to thank the Masons of Penybont Lodge for donating Easter eggs and sensory toys to our pupils at Heronsbridge. The primary department will be searching for theirs in the annual Easter Egg hunt! Penybont Lodge wished to carry on the generosity of our late governor Colin Evans, who previously organised the donation of the eggs. We very much appreciate



The theme for Mental Health Matters week this year was 'My Voice Matters' Our staff and pupils came together to learn different ways to empower and express themselves through a range of activities and events, enjoying the benefits of caring and sharing together.

Our pupils got involved in a whole range of activities including smile on your mile walks; safer internet day; grooving together on the Move Programme; designing 'My Voice Matters' posters and poems and planting wildflower seeds to name but a few! The Primary dept enjoyed meeting a very special visitor Boo the Miniature Shetland pony, and all pupils had great fun creating a kindness tree which we have proudly displayed in the corridor.



# Family Matters

## HERONSBRIDGE FAMILY INFORMATION

### DAY



Thursday 18th April 10am-1pm

Heron Hall (main school hall)  
Over 20 organisations confirmed

SNAP Cymru	Children's commissioner for Wales	NAS
Special Families	Friends of Heronsbridge	Bridgend Carers
Y Bont	Ty Hafan	Local PSCO
Career Wales	Health & Wellbeing team	SCOPE
Work Based Learning Team	Employability	STEER
Bridgend Mentoring Plus Scheme	Dog Mentors	SHINE
Bridgend College	BeCalm Relax	AP Cymru

Refreshments available  
Art & Craft table for kids

All welcome! Please come along parents, carers, family members & friends



Please feel free to contact us at  
anytime

Rebecca McEachen 01656 815725

## Parent Drop In



Every Tuesday

10.30am—11.00am

Just a reminder that our Parent Drop In has now started and is back up and running. Pop in and have a cuppa and a chat with our Family Engagement Team!

All welcome! Please come along parents, carers, family members & friends

Beth Connolly, who was formerly on rotation as a physiotherapist at Heronsbridge has set herself an enormous challenge, to swim 8km from Rhoose Point to Barry Island in August She has sent the following

*"I am looking to raise money for the 'Friends of Heronsbridge' for an Acheeva bed, which is a wonderful piece of Physiotherapy equipment that can accommodate all children, in particular those with the most severe disabilities. This was a piece of equipment that I utilized a lot whilst I was there, and at present the school only had one Acheeva for 20-30 pupils. Therefore, I would be extremely grateful for your support, small or big - you are truly supporting a wonderful cause "*



If you are able to make a donation, please scan the QR code which will take you to her just giving page. THANK YOU!!



## Attendance to date

88.3%

### Spring term-Top attenders

1. A7 97.9%
2. A10 96.6%
3. C4 95.9%

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 each morning thereafter (unfortunately we are unable to accept messages from the taxi escorts).

## 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 Out of school hours contact information

[Emergency duty team \(01443\) 743665](tel:01443743665)

[Early Help: \(01656 \) 815420 / 0642740 / 815431](tel:01656815420) **Email:** [earlyhelp@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:earlyhelp@bridgend.gov.uk)

[Information, Advice and Assistance team \(IAA\): \(01656\) 642320](tel:01656642320)

## Dates for the Diary /

### Dyddiadau

April/ Ebrill

8th INSET Day

9th Pupils return

18th Family information day

### May/Mai

HALF TERM / HANNER TYMOR

27th-31st