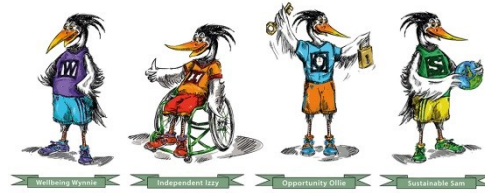


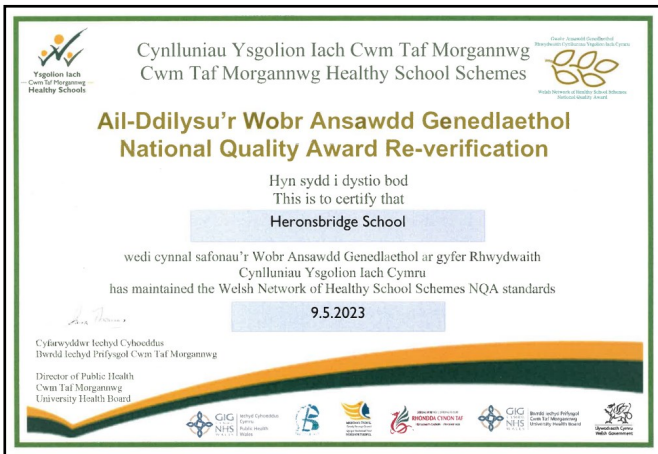


# Heron's Bridge News

## Summer 1 2023



# We are a Healthy School!!



Following a visit from Carys, our healthy schools practitioner and submission of all the activities and projects we are involved in, Heron's Bridge has successfully completed the second re-verification for the Welsh network of Healthy schools national quality award. Most notable in the report was *'The highlight of the visit was undoubtedly the pupil led tour. The pupils were courteous and polite and showed respect to their peers, staff and to myself as a visitor'* A big thank you to all of you, especially our pupils, you make us proud!!

### Primary

We started our new topic Superheroes off with a bang, by all staff and children dressing up for our big WOW! We saw everyone from Spiderman to Florence Nightingale!

All primary classes have been lucky enough to take part in the story café. Lots of parents and grandparents came into school to listen and join in with our topic based story. We had lots of sensory fun and then completed a task. We even had a certificate for attending.



### Primary

Sarah, a photographer from Unique You came in to work with a selection of pupils across the department. They had an amazing time learning how to use the cameras and experienced taking their own 'unique' pictures. We are looking forward to seeing the final creations!

Staff have also been upskilling themselves by attending RWINC (our phonics / reading programme) training in school to support learners across the department.



## Secondary

As the King attended his coronation, making him the 40th reigning monarch to be crowned in Westminster Abbey since 1066, pupils got into the party spirit. In class, pupils have been gearing up to create a crown to celebrate the big occasion.

Pupils celebrated in Heron Hall with cakes, fruit, drinks, music and also tattoos.

The school took on the patriotic theme of planting seeds in our kitchen garden, raising the flag and also taking seeds home that were donated by Bridgend Town Council to help our butterflies and bees.

Seniors rocking a selfie with the King!

## Secondary

Some pupils went on an adventure to Llangrannog. All had a marvellous time trying out some exciting new activities. Many thanks to the staff who went with them.



## Centre for Autism

We have flown head first into our topic this term 'Superheroes'. This term we have been looking at our real life superheroes and 'People who help us!' We have been exploring our story and looking at different people who may help us in our community.

Big thank you to all our local real life heroes!

## Centre for Autism

Big celebrations for a big event! Whilst we got ready for the historic event of His Royal Highness' Coronation we of course had to mark the occasion. We decorated our areas with bunting and posters of the United Kingdom, made crowns and celebrated as a whole department with some High Tea!

"Let them eat cake!"





## Leavers

Our Year 13 Leavers students are getting out and about again, following an unwelcome Covid break. One of the accredited courses followed by Leavers students is Travel Training, in which they learn all about road safety and how to travel on public transport - a skill many of them will need when they transition to Bridgend College, and to live independently. The students enjoyed a walk to Bridgend Bus Station, spotting bus stops along the way and studying the different bus timetables. Plans are afoot for bus trips around the local area next half term.

## Leavers

Transition activities for our year 14 students are taking priority this term as many of them move on to new horizons after school. As well as regular visits to Bridgend College, the students enjoyed a visit to B-Leaf, a work-based project for adults with learning disabilities in the grounds of Bryngarw Park in which some former Heronsbridge students have found employment. Heronsbridge students who are likely to access a day centre when they leave school are visiting Bridgend Resource Centre's open day just before the half term break - hope you enjoy!



## Pupil Voice

Senior pupils represented the school this month at the Cwm Taf Morgannwg Co-production Film launch event. 'Our voice matters' This event was the culmination of network meetings in which pupils from Heronsbridge voiced their opinion on things that matter, such as having a safe space to meet friends in the community. The regional partnerships board exists to improve the health, social care and well being of people living in RCT, Bridgend and Merthyr Tydfil.

Our pupils were a credit to Heronsbridge and I was proud to be seen with them. Thank you!



Once again, we have been fortunate enough to have Sarah Jones from 'Unique You' in school to spend time with our pupils and provide them with an opportunity to get creative using some real cameras! It has been wonderful to see the photographs that pupils have taken and to remind us all of the importance of taking the time to appreciate nature and the school grounds. Sarah holds camera clubs throughout the week and some pupils have already enrolled in her classes. Unique photography has a Facebook page so be sure to check her out!! Thank you Sarah and to the Friends of Heronsbridge who sponsored her 4 day expedition!!



28th June- Parents evening and cream tea hosted by the Friends of Heronsbridge



HERONSBRIDGE

FAMILY INFORMATION DAY

Massive thank you to everyone who attended, parents, carers and delegates. Excellent morning offering advice and support to our families.



Thank you to Teaching Personnel for

donat-  
the  
cious  
cakes.



ing  
deli-



**Whizz-kidz**  
move a life forward

Ian from Whizz Kidz has been working on Wheelchair Skills with some of our pupils this term.

Thank you, brilliant work, improving independence and driving skills!!!

**Heronsbridge Summer Ball** £40

Ticket Includes  
Bubbly Reception,  
3 Course Meal,  
Live Auction & Entertainment

24 June 2023 Arrive from 6PM

Heronston Hotel & Spa  
Ewenny Road, Bridgend, CF35 5AW

Scan to book



Friends together Proscal roofing

**FAMILY MATTERS**

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

Karen Davies



Attendance to date 87.6%

Half term-Top attenders

1. Class A9 100% \*
2. Class A6 96.9%
3. Class 1 96.1%

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

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/>

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

Dates for the Diary

**May / June**

29<sup>th</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> June HALF TERM

15<sup>th</sup> June Bring & Buy

27<sup>th</sup> June Friendship Festival

28<sup>th</sup> June Parents evening

**JULY**

1<sup>st</sup> July Heronsbridge Fete and fun day

12<sup>th</sup> July ROA and leavers



# Heron's Bridge News

Summer 2 2023



## Friendship Festival



On 27th June we held our third Friendship Festival celebration day. The school was a sea of colour with lots of bunting and everyone dressed in their brightest most colourful clothes. We really got our festival vibes on with lots of craft activities, African drumming and a visit from some wonderful reptiles including Snowy the super long snake! Both staff and students enjoyed a sweet treat from the ice cream van and had fun dancing on the lawn. A beautiful and touching day where we remembered all of those who are no longer with us & celebrated our friends.



### Primary

All of the pupils in the primary department have been taking part in our 'MOVE fest'! We have kept ourselves busy throughout the week with lots of fun, energising activities such as Zumba, rebound and games. We even marched around the school grounds waving our flags following Mr Jones on the guitar playing 'I'm Gonna Be'! Pupils on the MOVE programme had their achievements celebrated in assembly, where they all received their MOVE certificates—we are so proud of you all!



### Primary

We took part in an amazing sports day this year with every class designing their own class race. We had everything from bad guys to superheroes with some classes soaking themselves and others with water pistols and balloons! Every pupil took part and those who were able, completed their first race ever on their feet! Even the parents joined in by taking part in a Superhero dress up race. In addition to our races, we had a stretchy, invisible, super speedy sensory sport's day for us all to get stuck into and enjoy!



## Secondary

On your marks, get set, go!

How lovely to see so many parents, carers, aunts and brothers joining in with the hustle and bustle of the annual sports day. Taking part in sports is an important part of our physical and mental health as well as showcasing the abilities of our talented pupils.

Enhancing learning, thinking and teamwork skills whilst having fun has never been so appealing, especially in the beautiful sunshine.

(lets enjoy it while it lasts)



## Surfs up Secondary!

Pupils at Heronsbridge have no limits! Here are some pupils at the beach taking part in a surfing session. You might think 'how is this possible'? Well... adaptive surfing was introduced to allow pupils with additional needs to take part in sports not only on land but at sea too! What a fantastic experience for all who took part, riding the ocean waves on specially modified boards. Ending the year with a splash!

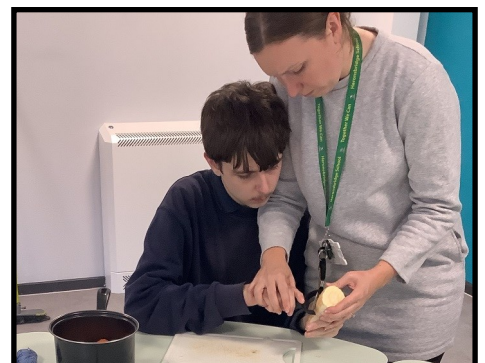


## Centre for Autism

What a lovely experience we had going to visit Bridgend Miniature Railway this term! The Railway society first got together in 1986 and have developed the site at Parc Slip where we can explore the miniature train world! The Friends of Heronsbridge kindly paid for a trip for pupils from the CFA and the Primary department. We have worked so hard this year and what a nice way to be rewarded! We got to explore the park and of course hop on and have a ride! Choo Choooooo!

## Centre for Autism

Congratulations to all our pupils that have taken part and completed their ASDAN accreditation this year. ASDAN provides accredited qualifications to engage, elevate and empower young people. Our pupils have worked hard to complete modules such as friends, relationships & community, good health and independent living. We'd also like to wish the best of luck to our pupils leaving the department and moving on to their next adventure. Lewis, David, Lewis and Cian you have certainly left us with fond memories and will be missed!





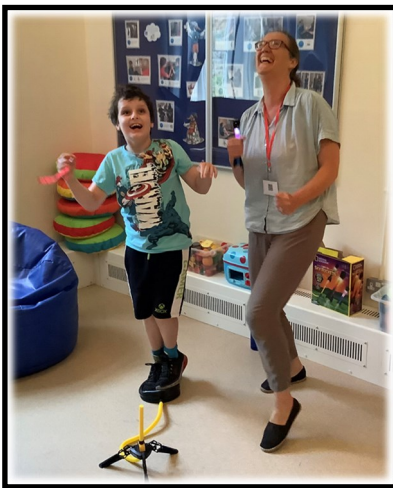
## Leavers

It's the time of year when we celebrate our Year 14 students before they embark on the next stage of their life journey. They have all had a fantastic year transitioning to Bridgend College and learning new skills in Work Based Learning. They had a great send off with an ROA ceremony followed by a Prom.

Pob Lwc Year 14s - you are amazing!

## Leavers

Students in the Leavers department all get the opportunity to achieve their Bronze DofE award. This half term Year 12 and 13 students completed a two-day expedition with a sleepover in the school orchard. The students had to battle steep climbs, uneven ground and a rainy day but they all made it back safely. What an achievement - we are very proud of you!

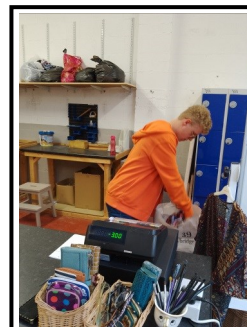


## DIR/Floortime®

Pupils have benefitted from DIR Floortime with Frie Heyndrickx coaching staff to deliver 1:1 sessions to build on relationships, support emotional regulation and engagement. We have had great fun with balloons, soapy foam, trampoline and building assault courses. Pupils have developed relationships with staff, built on attention, anticipation,

## Blas Da Recycle Shop

The Leavers pathways and work experience students have been working hard in setting up our new recycle shop within our school grounds. The Friends have donated a sum of money to help with the set up cost. It is another opportunity for our students to learn life and work experience skills. All the students who have been involved have loved the experience. We currently have a range of items for sale e.g. clothes, shoes, children's games and books, puzzles, jewellery. We are excited to start opening in September.





Karen Davies, is retiring at the end of term after a 24 year stint at Heronsbridge! Karen has held numerous positions in Heronbridge school, although most families will know her through her role as Family Engagement Officer, which she held for 10 years. Karen has organised and held numerous events including weekly coffee mornings, family information days, story café, bring and buy, sensory shop and training events for parents, as well as contributing to this page of the newsletter. Karen has helped so many parents, families, staff and pupils over the years and her shoes will be hard to fill (We are looking at creating a family engagement team). We will miss her and wish her all the very best in her next adventure.



Period Dignity: Grace & Green are working with BCBC to provide young people with free period care. Scan the QR code (or contact period. Dignity@bridgend.gov.uk) to find out more.

**PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) DURING THE 6 WEEKS SUMMER HOLIDAYS 2023**  
COURTESY OF MONEY SAVING CENTRAL

<p><b>ASDA</b> Kids eat for £1 All Day. Every Day at Asda cafes. with no adult spend required.</p> <p><b>TESCO</b> Kids eat free with a purchase of 60p+ from Mon 24th July - Fri 1st September 2023</p> <p><b>SAINSBURYS CAFES</b> Kids eat for £1 with the purchase of an adult hot main. From 1130am every day.</p> <p><b>BEEFEATER &amp; BREWERS FAYRE</b> Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!</p> <p><b>THE REAL GREEK</b> Kids under 12 eat FREE every Sunday for every £10 spent by an adult</p> <p><b>TABLE TABLE</b> Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!</p> <p><b>TRAVELODGE</b> Buy 1 Adult Breakfast from just £8.99 &amp; up to two kids eat breakfast for free</p> <p><b>HUNGRY HORSE</b> Kids eat for £1 on Mondays &amp; up to 2 Kids get free breakfast with 1 adult breakfast</p> <p><b>PREMIER INN</b> Buy 1 Adult Breakfast from just £8.99 &amp; up to two kids eat breakfast for free</p> <p><b>SIZZLING PUBS</b> Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm. kids' mains are £1 with every adult meal.</p> <p><b>IKEA</b> Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am</p>	<p><b>MORRISONS</b> Spend £4.49 &amp; get one free kids meal all day, every day.</p> <p><b>GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS</b> Kids under 8 eat FREE all day, every day at selected Gordon Ramsay restaurants</p> <p><b>PRETO</b> Kids up to age 10 eat free all day, every day with paying adults at Preto in Half Terms</p> <p><b>BILLS</b> 2 kids eat FREE all day, every day from Monday 24th July - Friday 1st Sept 2023</p> <p><b>BELLA ITALIA</b> Children eat for £1 with any adult main. The offer is valid 4-6pm Mon to Thurs.</p> <p><b>WHITBREAD INNS</b> Two kids under 16 eat for FREE with every adult breakfast purchased</p> <p><b>SA BRANS PUBS</b> Children can eat for £1 with any adult main. Valid All Day Wednesdays</p> <p><b>FUTURE INNS</b> Under 12's eat for free with any adult meal. During the school holidays</p> <p><b>PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM</b> Kids get 1 mini main, 2 snacks &amp; a drink FREE with every £4 spend after 3pm</p> <p><b>YO! SUSHI</b> From Mon 17th of July until Fri 11th of Aug kids eat free with every £10 adult spend</p> <p><b>TO BE CONFIRMED...</b> M&amp;S and Farmhouse Inns</p>
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Copyright of MONEY SAVING CENTRAL

**WE'RE BACK!**

**KIDZ TO ADULTZ WALES & WEST**

**21st September 2023**



Attendance to date 88.4%

Half term-Top attenders

1. Class A1 97.9%
2. Class 5 97.7%
3. Class 1 96.9%

If your child is unable to attend school, please phone the office

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### Dates for the Diary

#### SEPTEMBER

- 04 Inset Day
- 05 Inset Day
- 06 First Day for Pupils

#### OCTOBER

- 26 Family Information Day
- 30— 03 Half Term

#### NOVEMBER

- 9 Bring & Buy
- 10 Bag2School Collection