

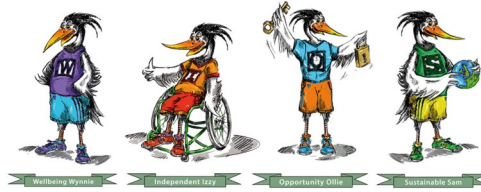


# Newyddion Heronsbridge

Tymor yr hydref 1 2024



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## WE are family.....



Family Information day. We recently hosted a successful and busy family information day, which provided an excellent opportunity for families, organisations and school staff to find about what is available for pupils and families in the local area. The day is also important in bringing people together to share experiences, tips and support for each other. Our next one will be in April. Come along, you'll love it!!



### Primary

Un, dau, tri rhedwch! A group of 7 pupils from year 5 and 6 represented Bridgend in Aberdare last week in the Race against Hate cross country event for primary schools. The pupils and staff ran the 400m "race the track" event where each student received a medal and certificate for their amazing efforts. Despite the cold weather conditions, everyone did excellent waiting and enjoyed cheering on the competitors in other races. The highlights of their day was not only the racing– they all loved wearing their special running tops and meeting a giant police hat mascot!

### Primary

This term some of our pupils in Years 5 and 6 have started attending riding lessons with the RDA. All 11 pupils have successfully already met the horses and are building trusting relationships with the animals and riding school volunteers. They have been learning basic skills such as asking their horse to 'walk on' and 'whoa'. In addition to this they have had lots of fun navigating their trusted friend through cones using their reins. Everyone has made amazing progress with 2 pupils hoping to be riding off lead rein and controlling the horse by themselves. Da iawn chi!





## Welcome back to Secondary

Coming back to school after such a long holiday can be daunting for some! As a rights respecting school, we thrive on giving all children the knowledge and guidance to access their rights.

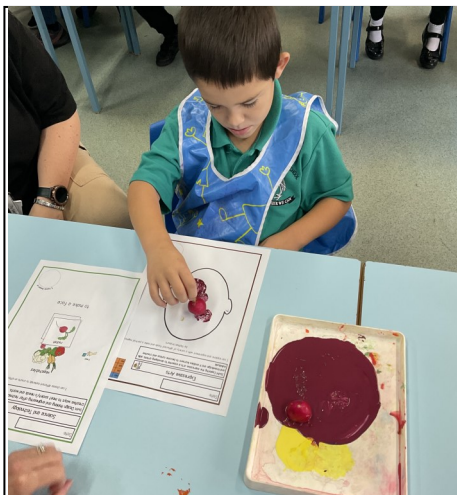
Since returning in September we have given our pupils the chance to settle and familiarise themselves with Secondary school life and helped them through times of uncertainty. We have taken part in many different friendship activities and pupils have really got to know their new friends.

Addiena is a part of our school council and she is promoting one of her favourite Rights, and a very important one at that!!

## Romeo, Romeo, where for art thou Romeo?

A performance of Romeo and Juliet is underway at Heronsbridge School! Key Stage 4 pupils are working hard to develop, learn and practise a show that will be performed at the Gwyn Hall in Neath on the 19th November.

This performance takes place every 2 years and forms part of the accredited modules for our learners that are 14-16. Our learners once again are showing their confidence, maturity, creativity and teamwork throughout this process and we are very proud of all who are involved!



## Centre for Autism

A big welcome to all our new pupils across 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 'Marvellous Me'.

We have been exploring our senses and studying our self portraits. Some of us have particularly enjoyed exploring the Welsh artist Nathan Wyburn who uses food to make self portraits.....we are fans of that!

## Centre for Autism

All of our pupils in the CFA enjoy taking part in our Outdoor Learning and have shown to be Sustainable Sam's as they have explored natural materials from our natural environments. We love to have the opportunity to engage in learning outside of the classroom, or where this is not possible bring the outside into our classrooms!

We have loved making our self portraits using natural materials as well as making autumn wreaths, collecting apples from our own orchard for printing and making our pebble families.



## Leavers

Our Leavers surfers were the last group to take to the waves for this years surfing sessions. A lovely sunny day saw our surfers ride some huge waves and enjoy the sensation of moving on the water in beautiful surroundings within Caswell Bay.

We look forward to more surfing next year!



## Leavers

The leavers had a special visitor this term. Carter the Police wellbeing dog, came with his team to talk about the work they do in the community. Carter was initially training towards being a working dog, but was far too gentle to be apprehending criminals!! He was more than happy with the attention he received by all the leavers. We are looking forward to another visit!!

## Special news-FUNdraising events

Congratulations and many thanks to our wonderful staff who took part in the SHINE night walk Cardiff event in October, walking a distance of 10 km throughout the streets of Cardiff. It was a fantastic evening and the team raised £1600 for Macmillan cancer research. Definitely a date for the diary next year!!



Beth Conolly, who worked at Heronsbridge for 2 years in her role as Physiotherapist recently took part in the Big R swim, covering a distance of 8 km from Rhoose point to Barry Island. Beth completed this incredible swim in 1 hour 9 minutes, was 3rd overall and the first female. On top of this achievement Beth raised £655 for Heronsbridge school. Thank you Beth, you are amazing!!





## Parent Drop In

Our Parent Drop In is back and will be running the last Thursday of every month 10:00am—11:30am. Thank you to everyone who attended our first one of the year! It was great to see so many familiar faces as well as welcoming some new ones. Please come and join us for an informal chat and cuppa! Keep an eye out on Class Dojo, our school website and via flyers sent home about special guests and organisations that drop in! Our next one will fall on our Meet The Team event on Thursday 28th November. We plan on running two in December over in Ty Cwtch where we have our Pre-Loved Clothing and uniform shop that we can't wait to share with you. Thursday 5th December we will be joined by Citizens advice, keep an eye out on Class Dojo for further information on this!

Please feel free to contact and speak to me or a member of our Family Engagement Team on 01656 815725 anytime or email us at:

rebecca.meachen@heronsbridge.bridgend.cymru

or family@heronsbridge.bridgend.cymru

Calling parents/carers family members and friends

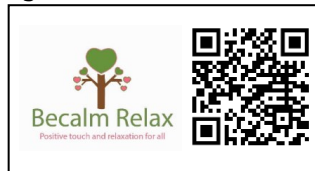
## PARENT DROP IN

Please drop in for an informal chat with members from our family engagement team. Coffee and a sweet treat always available.

When: Last Thursday of every month starting the 26th Sept 10:00 - 11:30am

get in touch with any questions by emailing manleyr2@hwb.cymru.net or family@heronsbridge.bridgend.cymru

Looking to meet other Parents and families and introduce your child to some amazing activities? Check these out these organisations which can be found on Facebook or by following the link on the QR code



### Attendance to date

90.3%

Autumn term-Top attenders

1. A6 99.6%
2. A5 98.2%
3. A4 98.1%

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 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 keep safe online

Out of school hours contact information

Emergency duty team (01443) 743665

Early Help: (01656 ) 815420 / 0642740 / 815431 **Email:** earlyhelp@bridgend.gov.uk

Information, Advice and Assistance team (IAA): (01656) 642320

### Dates for the Diary

HALF TERM

Mon 28th—Friday 1st Nov

#### November

- 15<sup>th</sup> Children in Need  
28<sup>th</sup> Meet the Team

#### December

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Friends & Co  
Christmas singalong  
4<sup>th</sup> Senior Carol Concert  
5<sup>th</sup> Parent Drop in with Citizen's advice  
11<sup>th</sup>/ 12<sup>th</sup> Primary Christmas Show  
17<sup>th</sup> Pupil Christmas Fete  
19<sup>th</sup> Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day