



Newyddion Heronsbridge

Tymor y Gwanwyn 1 2026



Cymru am byth!!



Celebrating and experiencing Welsh culture, tradition and language is something we do with pride. Our annual Eisteddfod, a highlight of our school year was celebrated by the pupils taking part in various competitions, on and off stage, followed by a gathering in Heron Hall to sing and dance. Pupils dressed in their house colours and chaos commenced! Congratulations to Ogmores house for being our overall winners. Primary pupils celebrated with class performances, during their St David's day assembly which was wonderful to watch.



Primary

Lots of the pupils in the department celebrated World Book Day by coming into school dressed as their favourite character. During our assembly, each class had their special moment on the stage to show off their costumes. To foster a love of reading and stories, pupils were encouraged to bring a book in to swap with a friend. Lots of other fun activities went on through the week such as engaging in sensory stories, story dens and flashlight Friday.

Primary

Pupils from Class 5 and 6 have been working hard to learn new skills during their horse riding lessons with the RDA. The pupils all started by being led around the school and have now progressed to riding independently off the lead rein! This is a huge achievement for them individually and as a department, as this is the first time our pupils have got to this level! Bendigedig!





Secondary

The Dog Mentor Programme visited our school to film our incredible school dogs in action as they worked alongside Mrs. John, Paula, and our wonderful pupils. Many of our secondary learners took part throughout the day, and everyone was amazed by how instinctive and responsive our dogs were, how beautifully they are cared for, and—of course—how brilliantly our pupils interacted with them. The work our dogs do is truly invaluable, offering emotional support, helping pupils regulate, and building confidence in a calm and nurturing way.

A huge "well done" to our *pawfect* dog mentors—Bernie, Charlie, Oakley, and Ruby. And a special thank you to Paula for organising such a fantastic day!

Secondary

More Than Just a Sporting Event, it's a

Court of Kings and Queens!

Our annual basketball competition brought together schools from across the region for a vibrant day of sport, teamwork, and celebration. Designed to promote inclusion and physical activity among pupils with Special Educational Needs, the event showcased not only impressive basketball skills but also the determination, confidence, and positive spirit of every participant.

The competition aimed to create an environment where all young people—regardless of ability level—could engage in structured sport and enjoy the thrill of team competition.

Thank you to all those who attended!



Centre for Autism

Pupils from the Centre for Autism proudly took part in their annual Eisteddfod, embracing the joy and tradition of Welsh culture. Alongside the exciting on-stage moments, pupils also enjoyed taking part in a range of off-stage competitions, showcasing their creativity, confidence and individual talents. The whole department came together to celebrate their achievements, share in the festivities and enjoy the rich cultural heritage that makes the Eisteddfod such a special event each year. We are incredibly proud of all the pupils for their enthusiasm and for showing such pride in their Welsh identity.

Centre for Autism

During Mental Health Matters Week, pupils from the Centre for Autism took part in a wonderful range of activities designed to celebrate and support their well-being. They had great fun posing in our photo booth, painting colourful pebbles, and spreading positivity at the affirmation station. Classes enjoyed adventurous scavenger hunts, calming sensory relaxation sessions, and the chance to "dress to express," showing off their individuality and creativity. It was a joyful week full of confidence-building moments, and we are incredibly proud of the pupils for embracing every activity with enthusiasm and smiles.





Leavers

Our Sensory Pathway continue to work on their strength and coordination in our rebound sessions. The physiotherapy team have worked alongside us.

Rebound has supported our learners to build muscle strength to develop both independence and promote autonomy of movement. This is important for overall physical and mental health and wellbeing.



Leavers

The Leavers Department put on a fantastic fashion show for the whole school, confidently strutting down the catwalk in a variety of outfits that would rival any major fashion event! Every item modelled was kindly supplied by the Ty Cwtch Preloved shop, and the show was followed by a clothes and fashion sale. It was a brilliant event enjoyed by everyone.

A huge thank you to all who donated and purchased gifts for Mother's Day. Across both events, over **£300** was raised - an incredible achievement!



Pupil Voice

The school council/Eco committee had a special visitor to one of our meetings this term. Emma Woods the South Wales Police and Crime Commissioner and some of her team came to personally thank pupils for their contribution to the Children and Young People's survey, which has been used to help with the development of the 'Safe, Heard, Respected' South Wales Children and Young People's Police, Crime and Justice Plan. Emma talked to pupils individually and explain about her role. Emma and her team have expressed an interest in coming back to the school to hold workshops to find out how they can support pupils with learning differences further. It was an exciting and productive meeting and the pupils in particular, loved the goody bags that they were given!

Special News-Mental Health Matters Week

Our annual Mental Health Matters week was held on 9th - 13th February. This year's theme, "This is My Place," invited us to think about the spaces—both physical and emotional—where pupils feel safe, valued, and able to be themselves. Throughout the week, pupils were encouraged to explore what helps them feel a sense of belonging: calm environments, trusted relationships, and opportunities to express their thoughts and feelings. The activities helped pupils recognise their strengths, understand their emotions, and feel proud of who they are. "This is My Place" reminded us that every child deserves a space where they feel understood and supported. And the message for the week was simple. **'You belong here. Your feelings matter. This is your place.'** With many thanks to Paula Boland for all her hard work, in organising such an incredible week, along with departmental representatives in addition to, Lucy John, Rhian Bateman and the psychology students who ensured that the many activities, were such a success. A beautiful stained glass window was produced, created from jigsaw pieces containing photos of pupils in each class. Take a look next time you go to Heron Hall!



Family Matters

Please head over to the school website to check out some fun Easter activities that are going on in the local area over the Easter holidays



 Calling parents/carers, family members and friends

PARENT DROP IN
Please join us for an informal chat with members from our family engagement team. Coffee and a sweet treat always available!

When: Thursday 30th April 10-11:30am

Where: Ty Cwtch at Heronsbridge

Look forward to seeing you there!


Get in touch with any questions or queries by emailing manleyr2@hwbwymru.net or phone 01656 815725 and ask to speak to Rebecca McEachen!




Massive thanks to all the organisations that attended our event as well as our wonderful families and friends from school and the local community. It was hugely successful and we can only run events like these with your support. We'll see you at the next Family Information Day in October. Please keep an eye out for our upcoming family engagement team events over the Summer Term!
Terrell
Diolch yn fawr!



Get in touch with any questions by emailing manleyr2@hwbwymru.net or family@heronsbridge.bridgendcymru




Attendance to date

88.5%

Spring term 1-Top attenders

1. 97.1% - A6
2. 94.4% - A1
3. 96.1% - A11

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



 This 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

MONDAY 30th MARCH – FRIDAY 10th APRIL
Easter Break

MONDAY 13th APRIL
Pupils return to school

FRIDAY 24th APRIL
Inset Day School Closed to Pupils

THURSDAY 30th APRIL
Parent Drop In

MONDAY 18th MAY
Inset Day School Closed to Pupils