

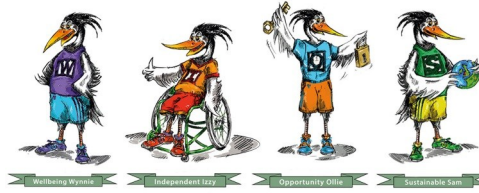


Newyddion Heronsbridge

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 'whoaa'. 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 year's 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.mceachen@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@hwbcymru.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

Friends of Heronsbridge



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

- 15th Children in Need
28th Meet the Team

December

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

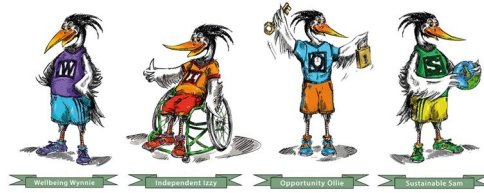


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Gold Award for Our Dog Mentors!!

The primary goal of therapeutic intervention with the Dog Mentors in schools is to create a nurturing and inclusive environment that fosters emotional resilience, enhances academic success, and equips students with the tools to manage stress, anxiety, and other challenges effectively. This Gold Award recognises that the school, dogs and dog mentor handlers have demonstrated a long-term commitment to the Dog Mentor Programme. They have thoroughly evidenced the positive impact the Dog Mentor Programme is having in school. Keep up the good work doggies!



Primary

We have been really busy this half term practising for our big show! All of the classes have worked hard in preparation and a thank you to all of our lovely parents who provided our costumes! Our 'Fish With A Wish' was a great success and we hope you all enjoyed seeing your child shine! A special extra big shout out to Jessie, who played the fish who wanted to be like everybody else, but who, in the end, was able to say with conviction "I love being ME!"

Primary

Thanks to the Friends of Heronsbridge for donating money to classes for craft supplies. We have been able to be really creative with our Christmas arts. We have even started working with clay and firing some decorations in our school kiln- we hope you love them.

And finally we have all been so good this year that we had a special visit from the big man himself, Father Christmas! The grotto looked amazing and each and every one of us received a special gift!





Snow Storm? Snow Way!

Well, its not hard to see that pupils in the secondary department are making the most of the weather! Who doesn't mind a bit of wet playtime?

Pupils are using their imagination to create a snow storm.

Pupils have enjoyed lots of fun activities this term. They have taken part in quizzes, fun walks, singing practise and lots more.

Sustainable Sam's using our recycling to have fun.

Secondary would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year!

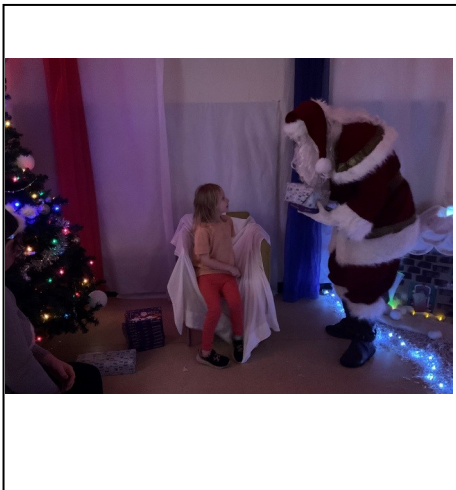
Stay safe and have lots of fun with your family.



"A UNIQUE AND HUMOUROUS TAKE ON ROMEO & JULIET PERFORMED BY A VIBRANT, COMMITTED CAST."

What a wonderful night we had performing Romeo and Juliet at the Gwyn Hall in Neath! Our wonderful pupils were commended for their professionalism and enthusiasm; they were able to make the audience laugh, cry and even join in dancing—which takes some truly skilled acting!

This would not have been possible without our dedicated team of staff who volunteered their time on the evening, and our families who supported this truly fantastic learning opportunity. Diolch yn fawr iawn i pawb!



Centre for Autism

It's the most wonderful time of the year! And what a busy one it's been. We hope you enjoyed the big Primary show this year 'Fish with a Wish'. It was a huge success and the children were absolutely fantastic! They worked so hard over the last few weeks familiarising themselves with the song and the whole production. Such a huge change to their routine and they took it in their stride, we are super proud of every single one! It's been a term full of Christmas fun and we've even had a visit from the big man himself, Father Christmas paid a visit to our very own Santa's grotto. He had a big list, he checked it twice and we're pleased to report that the children are all nice! We hope they enjoy their gifts and have a lovely Christmas.

Centre for Autism

Sensory Santa fun! We have had a great term where we have continued to enjoy our topic Marvellous Me. We have loved exploring our Christmas themed stories and activities, especially where we have made our own Father Christmas models. Some pupils enjoyed being the real life model of course!

It was our turn for our Christmas Senior show in St Marys church, some of our pupils took part in our Christingle service and put on a wonderful show. We hope you have enjoyed the alternative Christmas productions and activities of all our pupils. Nadolig Llawen!





Leavers

A group of our Duke of Edinburgh students visited the Dogs Trust to hand over £100 which they raised as part of their volunteering section. They were lucky enough to have a tour of the centre and meet many of the doggy residents.

Da iawn pawb!

Leavers

Our school choir has been spreading Christmas joy across Bridgend over the last few weeks. They have visited the Sony factory, the Civic offices, Heronston hotel and Hartshorn House to sing our Christmas classics and of course our unofficial school anthem 'All you need is love'. Nadolig Llawen everyone!

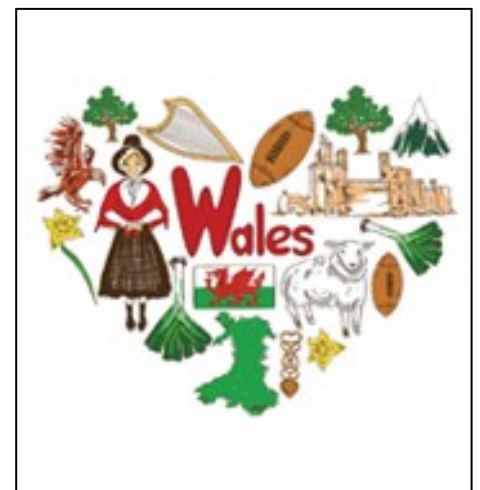


Pupil Voice

The school council were joined for a working lunch by members of the children's commissioner for Wales team, Jordan and Sophie who came to talk to the pupils about the Rights of the Child and what would be the best way to share them with young people. There were some great ideas, including a Rights of the Child song, an animated slide show, quizzes and assemblies. The team were so impressed by the pupils, they have asked to come back in, they've been invited to our mental health matters week and friendship festival next year. It was an ex-



Our topic next term is a new one for us, Calon - Heart in Welsh. Some of our pupils have told us that they would like to make and sample Welsh foods, and learn about why the daffodil is our Nation's flower. They also want to discover more about Welsh myths and legends, particularly about our Welsh red dragon! This wonderful topic will stretch our pupils to explore Cynefin, a feeling of





Christmas Pupil Fete

A big thank you to all the pupils that came to support and take part our Annual Christmas Pupil Fete. There were some lovely games, fun stalls, toys, books and sweet treats on offer! Hopefully the children came home with some pre-Christmas bargains as well as maybe a glitter tattoo or 2! We raised £200 on the day which all goes into the Friends of Heronsbridge charity, which is used to

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Go to the Bridgend Council website or scan the QR code.

BRIDGEND COUNCIL PERIOD DIGNITY AT BRIDGEND

Stars in Our Schools UNISON celebration day

November 29th was a stars in our schools day to celebrate and say thank you to all our staff whose enthusiasm and passion make Heronsbridge the wonderful place that it is, for everyone. Together we can!!

Attendance

Attendance to date

89.3%

Autumn term-Top attenders

1. A4	97.1%
2. A6	96.6%
3. A5	96.3%

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Dates for the Diary

CHRISTMAS BREAK

Mon 23rd Dec—Monday
6th Jan

Mon 6th Jan—Inset Day

Tues 7th Jan—Pupils back to school

Thursday 30th Jan—Parent drop in 10-11:30

HALF TERM

Mon 24th Feb—Friday
28th Feb