



# The Old School Henstead

## Newsletter

Spring Term 2016 Issue 5 12 February 2016



**STOP PRESS...**The Old School Henstead team won the inter-school Mathematics Challenge today. See page 8.

### Calendar for next week

Half term

Saturday 13 February to Sunday 21 February inclusive

### Dates for your diary

Monday 22 February  
Wednesday 24 February

Term Resumes  
2.00 U9 Netball v Saint Felix (H)  
2.00 U11 Football v Saint Felix (H)

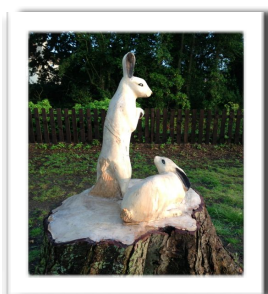
Friday 26 February

8.45 Reception Assembly & Open Classroom  
9.00 Year 1 visits Norwich Castle

Friday 18 March

7.00 Charity Concert in aid of *East Anglian Air Ambulance* at United Reformed Church, High Street, Southwold

### Message from the Headmaster



It is very much part of the curriculum here at The Old School Henstead that we uphold what are described as fundamental British values, for these very much dovetail with the values we celebrate every week through our mascots. These include democracy and the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. I was pleased to hear our Year Four pupils discuss the running of the country in a mature and balanced manner this week, showing a genuine grasp of how we are governed and curious to know how such institutions as Councils and Parliament function. We begin considering the meaning of Lent this week and pancakes have been made to underline the point! This morning Year Two showcased the Chinese New Year in their Assembly. It is the awareness of a wider world that adds a further level to their learning and contributes to the upbringing of reflective and considerate young people. I trust that all members of the Henstead family enjoy a peaceful half term. *Mr McKinney*



### Young Art East Anglia

Celebrating children's art and raising funds for cancer research, Cancer Research UK organised Young Art East Anglia 2016, this year on the theme of 'Long Ago'. Four Henstead pupils' artwork has been selected from around 1,850 entries for display at the Peter Pears Gallery Aldeburgh between 11-13 March (check gallery for opening times). All the pictures on display will be for sale, as well as postcards of the paintings, with funds raised in aid of Cancer Research UK. **Congratulations to Matthew, Rachael and Jack** in the Years 3 & 4 category. Further congratulations go to **Honor**, whose work was deemed Highly Commended by this year's judge Dale Devereux Barker. Honor will be presented with her award on Saturday 12 March in Aldeburgh. *Mr Butcher*



# What a drama!

This year the Inter-House Drama Competition allowed each house to give a dramatic presentation of whatever sort they chose, provided it was on the theme of their house mascot! The Houses certainly did not disappoint the audience - there were costumes galore, sound effects, noises off and a range of musical styles to entertain all tastes.

Deben drew the first performance slot and gave us their version of Aesop's Fable *The Fox and the Crow*. There was clear narration, with Chase and Charlotte as tasty cheeses, so beloved of the crow - clearly a local crow from George's portrayal, complete with imposing beak. The static tableau involved everyone and a range of dance routines helped to flatter the crow, get him to sing and drop his cheese for the wily Deben fox.

Orwell's *Snowy White and the Seven Ducklings* was written by the house. The ducklings introduced themselves with an in-character quack, but Hungry, Doc, Sleepy, Sneezy, Grumpy and Happy were mean to their sister Dopey, who was mocked for not swimming well and ran away upset, only to be chased by wolves! There were some imaginative costumes and good movement on stage. Matthew and Tilly kept the story moving, Lily Pad brought them to their senses and they went to the rescue of their beloved sister - putting themselves into her webbed feet - a timely reminder of our value for this half of term.

Yare adapted their version of Michael Rosen's well-known story to *We're Going on a Panda Hunt*. It was an engaging piece of choral speaking, nicely rehearsed. The imaginative inclusion of obstacles that hunters for pandas in the wild might meet added much - long wavy bamboo - the deep, cold Yangtze river - the Terracotta Army - the Great Wall. They coordinated their actions as they made good their escape on finding the elusive mascot and returned home to count their golds and sing their song.

The Waveney tableau was striking in its stagecraft - a wonderful tree (thanks to Mr. B.), grass and bug headdresses. The owl and the grasshopper was brought to life by some excellent narration by Theo - the sound of the noisy grasshoppers disturbing the peace of the day, even if their ears were attached to their knees! There were confident lines and diction - don't stand out from the crowd was the moral of the cautionary tale of Uncle Herbert, who ended up getting eaten in spite of Lucas' Southern drawl.

Well done to all the performers and to the House staff who have worked tirelessly in preparation for the event.

1st	Yare
2nd=	Orwell
2nd=	Waveney
4th	Deben

Mr McKinney





# Evolution & the environment.



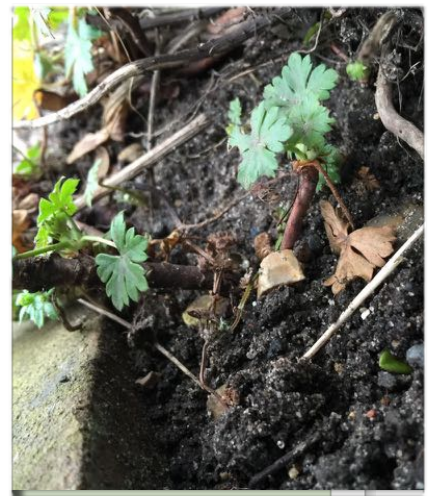
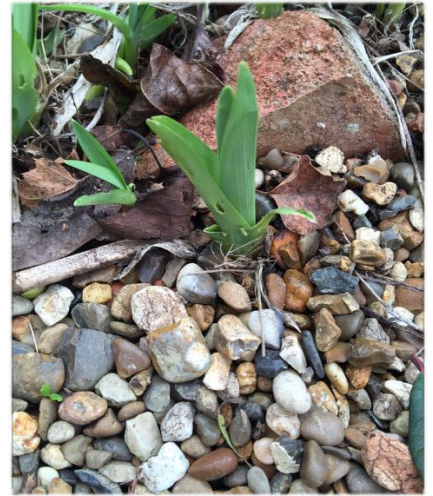
This term, Year Six has been learning about evolution and Charles Darwin's book: *On the Origin of Species*, published in 1859.

Evolution means any change in the traits within a population across generations and any change in how animals look or function over time.

Plants and animals change by chance. If plants and animals are well suited to their environment they are more likely to survive to pass their changes on to their offspring. Last week we examined plants that grow in our school and how they are suited to the particular environments, for example soil, stones and grassland.

Year Six has found the topic exciting and fun. A highlight for us was learning about how dogs have evolved over time from wolves. Each of us produced a poster about a particular dog breed. My report was about the Tibetan Mastiff. Did you know that Tibetan Mastiffs can live up to 10 years and can weigh up to 100-160 pounds?

Amber  
Year Six





# Chinese New Year.

## Year Two Assembly

With Chinese New Year celebrations taking place globally this week, Year Two used the timing of their assembly to showcase their English work around a Chinese story called *The Magic Paintbrush*. Our version of the story was written by Julia Donaldson, an author we know well and love thanks to her other fantastic stories such as *The Gruffalo* and *The Stick Man*.

The children showed off their own group actions to the story and the story map they had drawn in class. Both these methods helped to reinforce the storyline, and when the children were writing the story in their own words, these methods helped them to remember the pace of the story as well as different ways to start each sentence.

We also shared our own story based on the same format of *The Magic Paintbrush*, called *The Magic Fishing Rod*. It is a story about an Inuit girl called Aput (which means snow) and we even had a practice reading it to Reception last week as we know they are learning all about the cold lands at the moment.

As well as telling the audience about our literacy work, the children displayed their beautiful Chinese dragons and Chinese cherry blossom art they produced with Mrs Scoggins.

We also want to thank Ms Gildea for the delicious Chinese food for lunch today. 谢谢!

## Open Classroom

Year Two's morning started off with a Junior Choir lesson with Miss Sindall. On re-entering the Year 2 zone, Tony Chestnut was there to greet children, parents and grandparents. It was good to see everyone limbering up, ready for times tables and spellings.

Every day we have been taking part in the Rock Tables Challenge - a three minute burst of frantic times tables actions resulting in Rock Stars, Headliners, Support Acts and several Breakthrough Artists in our talent pool. As well as taking part in the day's 5 x tables challenge, the children took the time to show their families the progress they have made with their 2 x and 5 x tables this term. The children also wanted to discover their parents' Rock Star status!

We moved on to our weekly spelling test, before we had a brief look at our Jolly Phonics's spelling pattern for the week when we return after Half Term. Have a well-deserved holiday Year Two Rock Stars, and don't forget to practise your times tables!

Miss Kay, Miss Syder, Mrs Scoggins and Mrs Dakin



# Nursery Stay & Play Date.

## Stay and Play Morning.

Thursday morning dawned bright and crisp for the Nursery Stay and Play Morning. Lots of mummies joined their children for a morning full of hearts and Valentine themed activities.

It was lovely to see so many parents joining in with their children's learning experience. The slight chill to the air didn't stop us from continuing the Valentine theme outside, with some chalking and a heart hunt.

We ended our session with a song - *5 Little Hearts*.

Thank you to everyone for supporting our Stay and Play.

Happy Valentine's Day!

*Miss O'Mara and Miss Butcher*







# Pedagogical Ponderings.

Recently, I was struck by an act of sportsmanship that caught me entirely by surprise. Competition is a strength that is, and should be, effectively utilised in the classroom, and using one's natural competitiveness can be an excellent way to engage oneself in learning and achievement. This can be in the form either of competitiveness with self, or more commonly, competitiveness with others. We're all in competition constantly, whether we like it or not, and whether we know it or not. Working over the last few weeks with the Year 6 science class, we've seen how even animals and plants in the natural world are constantly in competition with one another.

Back to the point however: competition is an excellent teaching mechanism. But what happens when you're on the losing end of competition? In essence, what happens when you fail? I was astounded by an act of the most sportsman-like, indeed most British-gentleman-like behaviour I have seen in a great many years. Two pupils

who I teach are in constant mathematic competition with one another. It is a constant race each day to be the fastest to complete times table drills, and every day, (let us call him John), John manages to get the fastest time. But, (let us call him Steven), Steven is hot on his heels. Day after day, Steven finishes narrowly behind John and is constantly in John's wake. But this week, Steven finally beat John. Here's the clincher: John got the class' attention, stopped everyone, and publicly congratulated Steven on having scored the fastest time.

You see? John could have shrugged it off and said he was having a bad day. He could have accused Steven of cheating. He could have come up with any number of reasons to publicly share why and how he lost, but he didn't. He rose up, and showed how a real man would react when he loses. That is exactly the sort of pupil we want to grow at The Old School Henstead.

*Mr Jensen*

## Shrove Tuesday Pancakes.



A few shots from behind the scenes at Shrove Tuesday's pancake making activity for Reception and Year One pupils. Great teamwork, with excellent attention to detail, weighing, measuring, cracking eggs and following the recipe!



# SPORTS ROUND UP

## Netball



### NETBALL SUCCESS

After an action packed morning, the Under 9 netball teams travelled up to Norwich for two matches against Langley Preparatory School. This was to be the first match for all the girls, and to say they were excited would be an understatement!

After a series of warm up exercises, they took to the court for a 5 a-side match. This version of the game does not have as many rules as the usual 7 a-side, allowing the girls to enjoy playing the game, without worrying about being offside. On Court 1, with the majority of Year 4 playing in the team, they started quickly, and the shrieks of delight when Emily scored were probably heard for miles around. Addison impressed all with her ability to read the game and made some excellent interceptions. (You know when you have a good player when the other team's coach comments.) Two further goals from Emily and a thoroughly deserved one from Sophia, saw them win the match 4-1.

Play on Court 2 was slower off the blocks. A goalless first quarter meant a re-jig of the team, and what a difference that made. Two minutes in to the second quarter and Ebony struck. The home team equalised, but only 30 seconds later, our girls retook the lead. Superb defensive work from the rest of the team kept the ball firmly in our half of the court, allowing Kate to put one through the net. Langley clawed one back, making it a very exciting final quarter. By this time, our team had really begun to show what they were made of and a final goal resulted in a 4-2 victory.

Many congratulations to all the girls, each of whom played a vital part in what was a fantastic afternoon of

netball. Many thanks to our supporters - I am sure you will agree it was well worth the journey.

*Miss Goddard*







## Play your part for a better internet.

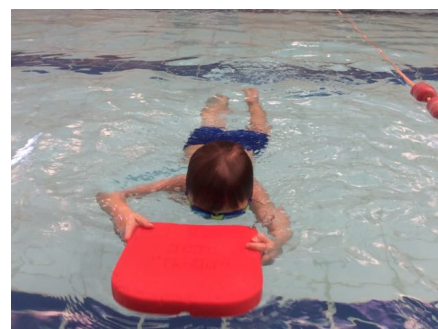
The theme for Safer Internet Day 2016 was “*Play your part for a better internet*”. Pupils enjoyed a superb assembly delivered by Year Six on Tuesday.

Our pupils showed great knowledge and understanding of how to use technology safely and effectively. Our core message was that of making sure that we are always thinking about acting online in the

way that we would face-to-face - in a kind, friendly and responsible manner.

A parents’ seminar - **thinkUknow** - was held at the end of day on Tuesday to bring parents up-to-date with the latest issues, tricks and scams that need to be considered to keep children safe online. Thank you to everyone who attended.

## Our youngest swimmers enjoying technical training this week.



### Trinity College Music Success

We are pleased to report the latest Trinity College Music examination success:

Isabelle R      Grade 5 Singing &  
Grade 2 Piano

Both passed with merit and on the same day!

George T      Grade 4 Singing

Well done!

### Henstead wins Maths Challenge



The Old School Henstead mathematics team won the inter-school Mathematics Challenge, held at Langley Preparatory School this afternoon. Congratulations to George and Theo in Year Six, who were presented with their book prizes by Headmaster of Langley Prep, Mr Oldroyd. Fantastic performance boys.

### PTFA

News Extra

Easter Family Bingo Friday 11  
March 6.30pm in the Hall.



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