



The Old School Henstead

Newsletter

Summer Term 2016 Issue 4 13 May 2016



Calendar for next week

Monday 16 May
Wednesday 18 May

Year 3 Future Schools Meetings

Book Fair Ends

Bags2School

9.30 U9 - U11 Football Tournament at Norwich City FC, Carrow Road

12.00 U11 Rounders v Langley Prep School (A)

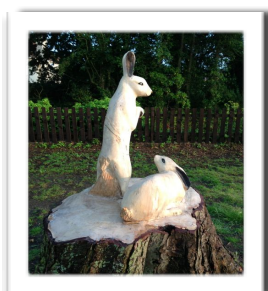
Saturday 21 May

Open Morning (half day school) - 9.45 Pupil Registration, 10.00 Guest Arrivals

Dates for your diary

Friday 27 May

The Henstead Hike in aid of *East Anglian Air Ambulance* (see page 7)



Message from the Headmaster

Preparation for our forthcoming Open Morning are well underway and the boys and girls are preparing a musical treat for all our guests - participation will be encouraged and much appreciated! It will also be an opportunity to see practical Science, our Houses in action and to hear some of the individual poetry recitals that were such a highlight at the close of last term. Our wonderful PTFA will be on hand to provide the lunch - it promises to be a great occasion. Please consider who to invite.

Mr McKinney

New Prefect Appointments.

We are pleased to announce the following new appointments to the school's Prefects team:

New Prefects

Amber
George
Theo

New Assistant Prefects

Savile
Lily
Daisy



Congratulations to all. We wish you every success in your new positions of responsibility in the school.

Equine Encounters.

Year Two.



The sun was shining as we departed for our annual trip to *Redwings Horse and Donkey Sanctuary*, home to 109 rescued horses, ponies and donkeys. We were greeted by Jess, our guide for the morning, and we started with a tour around the paddocks and fields. Poppy and Gemma, two Shire horses, were the first to meet Year Two, and Poppy soon became a firm favourite with all the children. Perhaps she liked the smell of our sun cream?



We then met Buddy, a very vocal donkey, Chanel the skewbald (brown and white coloured) pony and Cauli, aptly named after being found in a cauliflower field! Victoria, a 16-hand tricolour, was next and took a particular liking to Year Two's brightly coloured Henstead house hats - even having a nibble on Brayden's! It was then time to meet a drove of over 20 Jennys and Jacks, or better known as donkeys. They heard the rustle of the packet of ginger biscuits, and that's when the braying began. We learnt that a donkey's bray can be heard from five miles away, thanks to their big ears and that the species first came to Britain in 43 BC, when they were brought over by the Romans.



The children were then given the chance to groom four Shetland ponies: Sampson, Lewis, Kiwi and Spangles. Helmets were fitted and brushes chosen before the children helped the patient ponies to lose their winter coats. We could tell by the furry covering of the paddock by the end that the children had done a superb job - great teamwork Year Two! After a quick play in the park area, it was time for the hardest part of the day - deciding which resident we wanted to adopt. After a democratic vote, the most popular choice was Poppy. We hope to be back to see her soon! Thanks to all the staff at *Redwings* for giving us such a memorable day.



Meeting Poppy

Miss Syder and Mrs Dakin

Zoological Studies.

Year Two



We've had a fabulous start to this term with our animal projects in Year Two: all the children have chosen the animal they wish to study, giving reasons why they chose it. We have looked at which one of the five animal classifications their animal falls into: bird, fish, mammal, mini beast or reptile.

The children have already done some excellent independent work on their animal's habitat, and our trip to *Africa Alive* on Monday helped to reinforce our learning. The park is home to more than 80 species of animals from around Africa - including the fastest mammal, the tallest mammal and the biggest bird in the world!

The children participated in four workshops throughout the day: **Babies and Growth, African Adventure, Build an Animal and Action Safari.** We also saw the lions being fed, as well as the cheetahs. We missed the monkeys being fed (sorry Francis!) but did learn how to greet a chimp, how to communicate as a chimp and also that Matthew and Harry S were excellent running as chimps on their knuckles and feet. You must ask them for a demonstration or a race sometime!

An excellent day was had by all (thank you *Africa Alive* team) and you've certainly helped set the foundation for our work in finding out about our own animals babies and young ones, the health, care, conservation and protection around our animal and the special features, abilities and adaptations of our animals.

Miss Kay, Miss Syder & Miss Newnham



Fantastic Gymnastics.



A few scenes from Thursday's gymnastics session for Years 2 and 3. Great progress and effort all round. Next week gold medallist Charlotte from Year 6 will compete in the IAPS National Trampolining Championships. More in next week's newsletter.



Pedagogical Ponderings.

We are very blessed at The Old School Henstead to have classes full of energetic, inspiring and intelligent young men and women. For a teacher, there's nothing quite like the beaming look of a child who finally, after days or weeks of effort, has grasped a difficult concept or piece of learning. I'll never forget the time a small group of my pupils and I were working on percentage increase and they challenged me on what I was teaching. They were certain that I was wrong, went away to prove me wrong, and came back with "ok, you were right", but also a greater understanding of the concept I was teaching. The look in their eyes of "oh now I get it!" was priceless.

With the recent SAT exams in the state sector, I've realised just how fortunate we are to not have to go through this daunting process. I've been put to thinking what the real purpose of these exams is too. Is the real purpose of SAT exams to determine the effectiveness of a school? I'm left asking "how can a school's effectiveness be determined by one exam paper?" There are numerous key areas which are important in order

to teach effectively and assess fairly, but hanging all of your success (or failure) on one exam is not, in my opinion, an effective method. Nor, do I think, does it allow a government to show off the best of its schools.

I guess the point I'm making is that we can't rely on one piece of information to see how well our pupils are doing. Thinking back to my pupils earlier, given the chance to go above and beyond to push their own academic boundaries, I could see the learning happening in action. I could see the pride and enjoyment they had in what they were learning. How can this be assessed through an exam paper? We must allow our professional teachers to use effective assessment alongside observation and teacher judgements to decide on the progress and success of our pupils. If we do this, I think the overall effectiveness of a school will be evident when you walk into a centre of learning, talk to the teachers and pupils, and see what's happening.

Mr Jensen

Nursery News.

Two-page special.

Fruit Factor



This week Nursery has been focussing on fruit. To start we listened to 'Oliver's Fruit Salad' and talked about the different fruit we knew. Then in groups we decided to make our own fruit salad. The grown-ups showed us a selection of fruit, and we took turns feeling and smelling them. We then chopped up kiwi, mango, watermelon, raspberries, strawberries, pineapple, peach and banana to put in our own bowls and topped our fruit salad with some exotic fruit juice. We had a 'fruit-tastic' time and the children thought their fruit salads were 'pear-fect!'



Young Farmers

On Thursday morning Nursery walked up to the Raven's family farm. See next page for a full report of their adventures!



Nursery Star of the Week ★

This week's Nursery Star of the Week Award goes to Beatrice, who is really enjoying Nursery and listening extremely well to the teachers. Well done Beatrice!

Miss O'Mara and Miss Butcher

Budding Young Farmers.

Nursery.



On Thursday morning Nursery children walked up to the Raven's farm and had a wonderful guided tour from the family. Mr Raven greeted us at the top of the track where he showed us the impressive farm machinery and crops.

We learnt that the farm grows barley in one field and sugar beet in the other, swapping each year. Mr Raven found a cheeky potato plant in the sugar beet field. We thought the Daddies would be interested to hear that the barley is used to make beer!



Next we collected wheat grain to feed the hungry chickens. Everyone helped feed them and collect eggs. Mrs Raven explained that some eggs were a lot larger than others - as the chickens age and grow, their eggs do too!



After a hand wash we enjoyed some delicious homemade cookies and refreshing squash in the beautiful sunshine. Mr Raven's farm hand Jonny very kindly let us sit in his shiny and impressively clean red tractor. Some of the children even got to beep the loud horn!



To top it all off we ended with an exciting ride home on a trailer, sitting comfortably on hay bales as Mr Raven drove us back to Nursery!



We would like to thank the Ravens for a wonderful morning!

Miss O'Mara and Miss Butcher



Only **14** days to go!

Are you ready?

Our annual Henstead Hike will take place on Friday 27 May this year, in aid of *East Anglian Air Ambulance*.

This is the fourth year of the Henstead Hike, having previously raised money for *Walking with the Wounded* (twice) and *CLIC Sargent* (last year).

In line with tradition all pupils (including Nursery) will take part in this challenge, starting at age-appropriate points along the stunning 11 mile coastal route, between Benacre and Dunwich (via Southwold). Once again parents and grandparents are invited to join us on the walk -

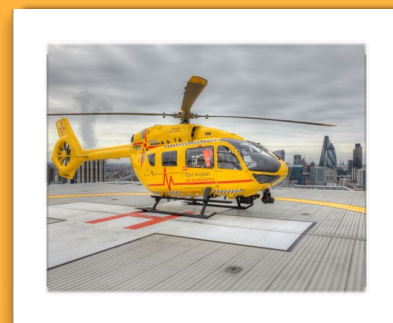
always a fun day for the whole school community. We're hoping for great weather once again. Sponsorship forms for pupils will be sent out next week. We have also set up a fundraising page online (which also offers a Gift Aid option to increase donations) at:

www.virginmoneygiving.com/hensteadhike

East Anglian Air Ambulance (EAAA) is a charity providing a helicopter emergency medical service for the people of East Anglia. Since their launch in 2000 they have attended over 17,000 life-saving missions. They operate two high-tech helicopters from 0700 until 1900 from their Norwich base and

from 0700 to 2359 from their Cambridge base, 365 days a year.

The cost to keep the helicopters flying is approximately £10.2 million pounds this year. The average cost of each mission is £3,500. So let's get fundraising!



Mascot Awards



The mascot winners, for best demonstrating Teamwork this week, are as follows:

Reception Lola
Year One Bertie
Year Two Olivia
Year Three Rosie
Year Four Nathan
Year Five Lucas
Year Six Theo

UNIFORM SHOP

Opening Times
Tuesdays 8.30-9.30
Thursdays 3.15-4.15

Open Morning



Please consider who to invite to our Open Morning on Saturday 21 May. Additional invitations are available from the office. Friends, colleagues, parents and grandparents are all welcome to spend the morning with us. It will be the last opportunity this year to see some new lessons and activities in action and the children are always keen to show what they achieve at school. Please encourage guests to arrive by 10am, so that they don't miss the opportunity for an overview of the options available for the morning. (Pupils should arrive earlier - wearing blazers as usual - for registration at 9.45.)

Book Fair



Thank you to everyone who has supported this week's Book Fair, which ends on Monday. Results will be reported in next week's newsletter.

PTFA

News Extra

Wednesday 18 May
Bags2School

Summer Fayre Wednesday
29 June A rota for the Summer Fayre and stalls is up in the office. Please put your name down where you can help.



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