



The Old School Henstead

Newsletter

Summer Term 2014 Issue 1 2 May 2014



Calendar for next week

Monday 5 May
Tuesday 6 May

School Holiday (Bank Holiday)
Reception pupils at Ringsfield Hall (half day)
7pm PTFA Meeting
Bags2School Collection
Open Morning

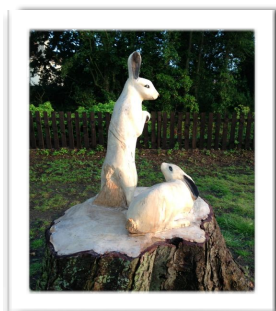
Thursday 8 May
Friday 9 May

Dates for your diary

Friday 20 June
Friday 4 July
Wednesday 9-Thursday 10 July
Friday 11 July
Saturday 12 July

Henstead Hike (to Southwold) in aid of *Walking with the Wounded*
Henstead Hundred fundraising cycle event
Summer Shows
Speech Day
Summer Ball

Message from the Headmaster



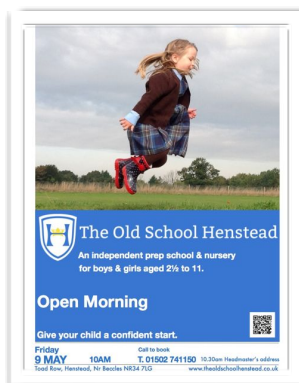
Greetings from Yorkshire! The holiday periods are always a time in which disruptive work has to be done and I am very grateful to the staff who have worked so hard to improve the fabric of the school. Miss Goddard and Mr Hunter have put in a long shift and the changing rooms look superb, further enhanced by the African artistic flair of Mr Butcher, whose mural in the boys' changing room is, quite literally, a work of art! Thanks also to Mr Baxter for the fencing work between the art and science block and the rear of the Reception classroom, which has enhanced the look and security of that area of the school. I am grateful to all the parents for adapting to the new drop off system so quickly.

Mr McKinney

Open Morning Friday 9 May

Our next Open Morning will be held on Friday 9 May, starting at 10am with arrivals and coffee, with the full programme from 1030am. We would be grateful if you would consider inviting or bringing along any interested friends or

colleagues to see The Old School Henstead in action. We are also grateful to parents who are able to display one of the posters via their work or personal network. Thank you as always for your continued support.



Life is an Adventure.



Year Six trip to Dearne Valley, South Yorkshire.

Monday

Dearne Valley is an amazing place and the last thing one would expect between Doncaster and Rotherham. The one time site of The Earth Centre, the northern equivalent of the Eden Project, has been converted into an outdoor education venue, cleverly integrated with the local landscape, with a wide range of challenges and facilities - physical, mental and ecological. Modern chalet accommodation, wooden clad, blends in equally well.

It was straight off the transport and on with harnesses and helmets to tackle the Crate Stacking Challenge. Different pairs tried varied strategies, but it was Scarlett and Lily G who produced a towering performance, fifteen crates high before the final collapse, with the ground crew roping up multiple units to be hoisted up to the girls.

There was just time for an orientation tour before a tasty supper taken in a modern open plan split level refectory - energy supplied by a huge canopy of solar panels.

Environmental art was our first activity of the evening - the children were asked to collect natural ingredients to create a picture that represented them - boys, girls and Year Six as a group. There were flowers, twigs to draw around hands and a some of the most pungent wild garlic imaginable!

Day one concluded with a murder mystery. The staff attempted to solve the demise of fancied jockey Hugh Dunnitt, whilst the children were in costume and character with evidence to share and alibis to undermine. Was it Toby aka Johnny Geography,

whose fiancée Tiffany Prince (Lily G) had been dallying with the deceased? What of Mustapha M'tach (Tom) an agent for the King of Tierack? Arthur McTavish Macdonald McRib (Lily D) seemed to have undisclosed motives also, as did Sister Rosemary Bead (Seb), who had taken the veil having been jilted. In the end it was Scarlett, the conniving Mae Vest, who had done the deed to cover her gambling debts. And so to bed...

Tuesday

After a hearty breakfast it was off to the sports hall, set up as a Fencing salle. Every one made progress, but Seb was the one to watch and Mr Hunter certainly got the point. Next up was our first visit to the climbing tower for abseiling. It was one of the highlights of the day and everyone, staff included, had time for numerous attempts, bounces, high fives and even a mid-air dance off in which Tom learnt how to add Irish dancing to his repertoire. The boys and girls visibly grew in confidence and the instructors were first class.

The afternoon was dedicated to bushcraft which included shelter building, which we might have expected, but certainly unexpected was the carving of dog whistles from green willow (Scarlett's actually works) and making cordage for bracelets and rings out of nettle stems.

There was no let up after the evening meal, with balances and teamwork essential to tackle the low ropes course - Lily D excelled here. The day ended with a much needed peaceful hour in the company of Michael Jordan and friends in *Space Jam*. Lullabies were not required at bedtime!

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Life is an Adventure. (continued from previous page)



Wednesday

The day began with probably the most challenging activity of the week - the Leap of Faith - a single pole climb to a small square platform ten metres in the air, from which the jump to a trapeze gives the task its auspicious name. All of Year Six would admit to a sense of apprehension, but the confidence gained through aerial rope work the day before served them in good stead. Not only did they all manage it, there was time to climb and jump in pairs! Next up was Jacob's Ladder - a pair challenge in which the Lilys, D and G led the way to the very top, while the less confident still managed the majority of the rungs in this twelve metre high challenge. After a short break Team Year Six tackled a series of blindfolded exercises, moving together, singly and inventing instructions to direct a partner. Afternoon activities included a range of problem solving tasks. The highlight was a team crossing of two vertical walls, whilst the planks and minefield proved to be a bridge too far... perhaps the return to the climbing tower, this time to use the zip line was too great a distraction. Roast dinner recharged the batteries, then it was off to the Laser zone to zap anything that moved, ending the evening with a classroom quiz.

Thursday

An early breakfast and off to York - an hour's drive away. It was raining, so hot chocolate in the café opposite our first venue of the day seemed the obvious choice. The Jorvik Viking Centre was

superb. We were fascinated by it all - from staff who were keen to explain the customs of the day to holographic displays from Viking tradesmen and women. It was the cable car cum moving information pod that thrilled everyone, as we moved through the bustling streets of Jorvik, accompanied by the sights, sounds and smells of the day.

Entirely different, yet equally thought provoking, was the magnificence of York Minster. The children sought out architectural curiosities, not least the six ceiling bosses, designed by Blue Peter viewers and installed after a fire had damaged the transept. There were side chapels to explore, modern sculptures that spelt out the Christian message in semaphore, a crypt and an interactive display on the ongoing refurbishment of giant stained glass windows. We lay on the floor to estimate how high the central tower might be (60 metres as it turned out) and marvelled at how such a building could have been constructed (and how dangerous it must have been) so long ago. After three hectic days, York was a pleasant counterpoint and time to browse in the narrow winding streets of the old city was also welcome.

Friday

On Friday morning we managed to fit in one last activity - Scrapheap Challenge - before lunch and the journey home. We had a great trip. Year Six achieved a huge amount and surprised the staff and themselves by much they can achieve when they work together. They have good reason to be proud of their achievements.



Charity & Fundraising News

Only **63** days to go!



The Henstead Hundred

Only 63 days to go! To simplify the sponsorship process for the Henstead Hundred cycling challenge, may we encourage participants to set up their own fundraising page on Virgin Money Giving, by simply clicking on the following link and select the "Start fundraising" button:

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/displayEventDetails.action?eventId=18524&charityId=1006950&invocation=evt0050>

Alternatively, if people simply wish to make a donation without sponsoring an individual participant, you may do so on the following page: <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charities/theoldschoolhenstead>

If you have any questions about the event, please contact Mr Hunter on e.hunter@theoldschoolhenstead.co.uk.

We appreciate all your support in improving facilities for the children at the school.

Henstead Hike Update

Only **49** days to go!



Our online fundraising page for this year's Henstead Hike to Southwold on Friday 20 June - in aid of *Walking with the Wounded* - is now live. Please encourage your sponsors to visit our page, as it will enable the money to go directly to *Walking with the Wounded*, with a Gift Aid option, to allow the charity to increase the value of every donation by 20%. Click on the link below, or copy and paste it into an email to your sponsors:

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-web/fundraiser/showFundraiserPage.action?userUrl=HensteadHike&fald=439929&isTeam=true>

Only 49 days to go!



Picture: Eastern Daily Press / Nick Butcher

INSET Staff Training Day



"It is hard to quantify what I like about teaching, but I know I like it."

Time to reflect; for many of us it a luxury. It is an important luxury nevertheless and one in which we must indulge in order to develop. As teachers it is all too easy to focus on what we are teaching. However, what we teach the children will never be as important as what they learn from us and what we learn from them. Our INSET day at the start of this term focussed on developing a teaching and learning community within the school that places the individual needs of all of our pupils at the centre of all we do. As well as a workshop on lesson structure, starters and plenaries, each member of the teaching staff gave a presentation on an educational topic that they are passionate about. The rich and varied nature of the presentations demonstrated just how individual each member of staff is at The Old School Henstead. However, there was a unifying thread running throughout - how privileged we

all are to work with such incredible children and to watch them grow as we share in their achievements. This combination of individuality coupled with core values is exactly what we want for all of our children. We strive to provide a wonderfully small learning environment for all, which celebrates individuality, whilst at the same time fostering our core values of confidence, respect, empathy, adventure and teamwork. As we commence this half term with a focus on teamwork, we would like to extend our appreciation to all who make Team Henstead as outstanding as it is: the staff, the parents and, most importantly, the pupils.

"I'm not a teacher: only a fellow traveller of whom you asked the way. I pointed ahead - ahead of myself as well as you." - George Bernard Shaw

PTFA Bingo Event

Some forty souls assembled for an evening of numerical recognition and there was expectation from some, ambition from others, whilst some merely hoped for a snack, a drink and an away win at Old Trafford. Most of these were ably supplied by PTFA initiative, whilst the bar dispensed fizzy cheer of all sorts. As for the forlorn hope...

Master of the balls was the inimitable Paul "top of the shop" Scoggins, although this author is led to believe that those floral shirts are also available from other retail outlets. He guided us through the complexities of one and two lines before checking the winner of each game, adding the statistical analysis that only comes with years of dedicated practice. It was a Kelly's eye performance.

A great evening was had by all and some £230 was raised. Many thanks to all who attended, played and helped.



It was a joy to see Brayden walk into school again on the first day of term. Mr & Mrs Hardy requested that this letter be printed in the newsletter to convey their appreciation to parents, pupils and staff.



Dear Mr McKinney

I would like to pass on our sincere and grateful thanks for all of the wonderful support and good wishes that we received while Brayden was very poorly. It really felt like the whole school were willing him to get better! Daily messages, cards and gifts made us realise how thoughtful and kind so many people are and we were very touched by this, not just from the staff but also from parents and children.

The welcome we received when Brayden returned to school was lovely and apart from being a bit tired he seems to be getting back to his old self.

When we first looked around at The Old School we were told by Mr McKinney the pastoral care was excellent, well we can certainly vouch for that!

Many thanks once again.

Mike, Debbie and Brayden Hardy

Gold Certificates



Well done to Scarlett Baxter and George Taylor on the award of Gold Certificates for 15 A1's.
Mr McKinney

Mascot Winners



This week's Mascot winners - best demonstrating this term's school value of Teamwork - are:

R - Harry Lennard

Y1 - Ella Tennens

Y2 - Natalie Saunders

Y3 - Jasper Bird

Y4 - Charlotte Warnes

Y5 - Michael Olaleye

Y6 - Team Year Six!

New Prefects



Congratulations to our newly appointed Assistant Prefect Sarah Hubbard and Prefect Lily Goodenough.
Mr McKinney

Learning Trail Winners



The winners of this week's Teamwork Learning Trail were:

Peppa McMahon and Grace Forster.

UNIFORM SHOP

Opening Times
Mondays 0830-0930

PTFA

News Extra

Tuesday 6 May 7pm PTFA Meeting

Thursday 8 May Bags2School collection.

Saturday 12 July Summer Ball

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