



The Old School Henstead

Newsletter

Autumn Term 2015 Issue 4 2 October 2015



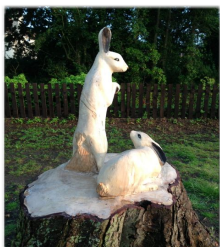
Calendar for next week

Tuesday 6 October	9.00 Year Five visits Elizabethan House, Great Yarmouth (Year Two visit to Southwold changed to Monday 12 October)
Wednesday 7 October	Year Four Assembly 9.05-11.10 Year Four & Year Three Open Classrooms 1.30 HM Coastguard visits Nursery (<i>addition to calendar</i>) 2.00 U11 Football v Saint Felix (A) (<i>fixture postponed by Saint Felix</i>) 2.00 U9 Hockey v Langley Prep (H) 2.00 U9 Tag Rugby v Langley Prep (H) (<i>fixture postponed by Langley Prep</i>)
Friday 9 October	

Dates for your diary

26-28 October Holiday Club (bookable via the Office)

Message from the Headmaster - a Pad with an iPad



I was honoured to represent the school at the Independent Association of Preparatory Schools Headmasters' Conference from Monday to Wednesday this week. Part of the pleasure of such gatherings (before the rigour of the conference) is the opportunity to travel by train, something I have enjoyed from childhood, with undimmed memories of being allowed to travel alone to visit my grandmother, by steam engine no less. Nerves were calmed by the certain knowledge (as only a seven year old can be certain) that the station at which I was to alight was owned by my uncle, the Station Master - I was distraught to learn that this was not the case some years later! The crossing of London by train today has been somewhat different, not least for the absence of unaccompanied minors! The environs of Paddington station are awash with expectant sons of The Emerald Isle, in transit to Wembley, deliriously joyful Welsh supporters, spontaneously harmonising their victory and quieter wearers of the red rose, seeking urgent repairs for a Sweet Chariot, currently swinging lower than they might have wished. As we now pass through Bath and the West Country, I am reminded that the beauty of the English countryside more than compensates for the fortunes of thirty players in pursuit of an oval ball...

continued on next page/...

Open Morning.

Tomorrow (Saturday 3 October) will be half day school for the Open Morning.

This is an opportunity for parents, grandparents and friends to spend the morning with us and all visitors are welcome to visit and join the activities across the school, not just the classrooms of their children.

Although pupils arrive earlier for registration, we recommend that visitors arrive at 10am, so that they can find out about the programme and choose the options most relevant to their families and any specific interests. Nursery will be open for any visiting families too.



The Old School Henstead
An independent prep school & nursery
for boys & girls aged 2½ to 11.

Open Morning

Give your child a confident start.



Saturday
3 OCTOBER
Food Row, Henstead, Nr Beccles NR34 7LG www.theoldschoolhenstead.co.uk

Arrivals
10 AM
T. 01502 741150

IAPS Conference Reflections.

.../continued from previous page - Headmaster's Message

Sunday 27 September

Train travel allows time to read. I have been encouraged to see the reading lists our English teachers and pupils have been compiling and considering. I say encouraged as there is such a mix of books both modern and classic. The process of sitting down with a book, or reading a story with a child is such a precious one - a true habit of lifelong learning to be cherished. Modern literature remains accessible and attractive to the minds of our young people. Since we have no literature of the future, however, it remains important to consider the writing of the past as well as that of the present, in the same way we learn to appreciate a foreign country by sampling all it has to offer, rather than merely noticing that it is different from the home we know. It reminds us that our assumptions in reading today may be different to those who wrote in times past and that our appreciation of those assumptions may make our reading a richer and more rewarding experience.

"My own eyes are not enough for me, I will see through those of others... In reading great literature I become a thousand men and yet remain myself. Like the night sky in the Greek poem, I see with a myriad eyes, but it is still I who see." - C.S. Lewis

Monday 28 September

The theme of our conference is ***In good heart?*** *developing healthy schools*. IAPS heads have come here from across the world to discuss how we promote health and happiness in our schools at a time when our curriculum is facing a unique period of opportunity and diversity; when mental health is emerging as a key element of pastoral care in all our schools. In good heart? We share the venue with the Georgia Rugby World Cup squad. Outside contenders they may be, but as cheerful a bunch of fairytale giants you are never more likely to meet. Healthy? Surreal moment of the morning? Sharing a lift with Dr Jamie Roberts (of Welsh centre fame) - me in a suit, he in a spa bathrobe (day off before Fiji match preparation). A selfie moment I suppose, but respect for personal space meant a word of congratulation on victory over the Old Enemy had to suffice. #dontdisturbahugeblokeinflipflops.

Inspirational speaking from Sir John Jones on the H factor and how we must not lose sight of our moral purpose in contributing to the upbringing of content, fulfilled and reflective young people - as a Head, it is not always easy to prevent buses, boilers and buildings

from being a distraction! We must challenge our children, but we must also ensure that we ask them, listen to them, smile and laugh with them, trust them and let them find out. It is our privilege so to do.

Tuesday 29 September

A day of many meetings, some administrative, but nonetheless essential to the running of a school. It was the message from Simon Reid, Principal of Gordonstoun that stood out, for it was as challenging as it was encouraging to us at The Old School Henstead. The need for sound principles, resilience and integrity in our curriculum, and that these are every bit as important as academic excellence, for which we strive also. The need for challenge, for opportunities to be of service - because it benefits the child as much as the person served. To show initiative and have awareness of a wider world. Character some might call it and that was precisely what the Dean of York did in his sermon at the conference service, reminding us that to that character the Divine Spark gives wholeness and cohesion. We must continue to protect, nurture and develop these values and aspects of our teaching and learning at Henstead.

Wednesday 30 September

This morning began with the joyful strains of Kate Corkery and Winston Nzinga, aka Spud and Yam sharing their love of storytelling and music - to have some three hundred headmasters and headmistresses singing along and joining in with the actions so soon after breakfast was a real tribute to their enthusiasm and professionalism. We were reminded that the child's strongest memories would not be what we told them in class, but how we made him or her feel whilst we were doing it. The thread of emotional intelligence continued with a presentation of the work of the Royal National Children's Foundation and the vital work the charity does in giving hope, support and a future to disadvantaged children in the United Kingdom. The final word was left to the gnarly experience and gravel tones of General Sir Mike Jackson, who had a word for us on the best laid plans, the importance of a plan B and that the path to be trod through Whitehall could sometimes be almost as perilous (and certainly as complex) as those in the many theatres of conflict in which he has served with such distinction.

Time to reflect, to read and to write. But steam trains are still the best and I wish my Uncle Albert really did own the station.

Mr McKinney

Green Credentials.



Year Four Goes Green.

Blessed by our current good weather Year Four's green planeteers set off for Swaffham on Tuesday.

We arrived for our ascent of the wind turbine 305 stairs notwithstanding and admired a splendid view from the observation tower, whilst provided with a technical commentary by our guide Aron.

Back at ground level we launched into a mini wind turbine building workshop, testing blade arrangements and pitch to extract the maximum power generation with some surprising results.

After lunch we became more technical still with our inspection of the centre's collection of record-

breaking green vehicles. Custodian Gav was so impressed with our interest and involvement that he asked us to award five house points to all eleven in the group!

Finally a lively girls versus boys recycling race was held, with the girls romping home on a mere 10 penalty points to the boys' 85!

It was a super day linking in a very immediate way with the learning Year Four has engaged with in Humanities this term.

Mr Butcher



Science @ Carlton Marshes.

Reception & Year One



Reception and Year One visited The Carlton Marshes this week, where they discovered the different types of animals living on the marshes. They also looked at the importance of water to all living things.

Our first activity was pond dipping, so we had to learn how to use the equipment safely. Once we found our water creatures, the children worked in pairs to identify them, using a mini beast chart.

We then moved on to the woods for some more mini beast hunting. We used different equipment to collect our bugs and we were able to look at them closely, using a magnifying glass. Once we had a close look at the bug, we returned them all to their original habitat.

Jo, our leader for the day, encouraged us to be water drops and she explained all about the water cycle, showing us just how important water is to all living things.

The children had a fabulous time in the sunshine, exploring our natural world.

Well done Reception and Year One on completing your first trip of the year.

Miss Coxon, Mrs Dakin and Ms Thomson



Ministry of Science.



Monday morning saw Years Two, Three, Four, Five and Six travel to the Norwich Theatre Royal to watch the *Ministry of Science*, and it certainly started our week off with a bang! After an early morning departure, we arrived at the theatre just in time to find our places, order our interval ice-creams and get settled into our seats.

From the beginning of the show, it was clear that there was going to be a lot to learn throughout the two hour production. Our enthusiastic presenters Mike Mayhem and Vicky Explosion inspired the pupils to learn about all things scientific as well as entertaining us for the morning. From hearing about famous scientists such as Isaac Newton and Thomas Edison to learning how to build our very own hovercraft from household objects, all The Old School Henstead pupils were captivated by the possibilities which science presented. Not only did we see fire, explosions and a huge smoky cloud caused by liquid nitrogen, we also heard all the elements in the periodic table sung in under two minutes!

All pupils soon got the hang of audience participation and were especially enthusiastic at the possibility of Mr Hunter going up on stage to pedal a bike to power a smoothie maker. None, however, seemed overly keen to

volunteer for the human cannonball... and I can understand why!

The explosive end to the show involved hydrogen and oxygen balloons and fire, resulting in many fingers in ears to block out the bangs.

After our eventful morning, we had our picnic lunches in the nearby park in the sunshine, before returning to school for the last few lessons of the day.

It is clear from the response of the children that they were truly inspired by Mike, Vicky and their brilliant production, and who knows - we may have some budding scientists among us at The Old School Henstead?

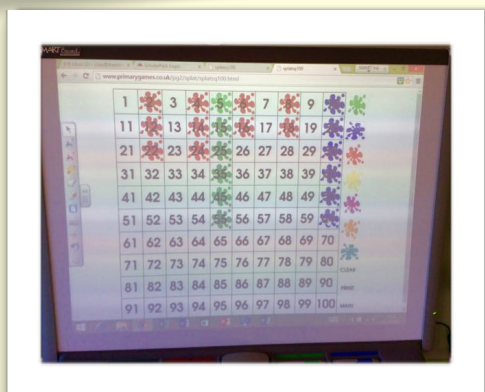
Miss Syder

"I loved it when the fireworks went off at the beginning. It made me jump out of my skin!" - Brayden, Year Two



Parents back to school.

Year Two & Year Five



Our Year Two parents and grandparents started their morning with a vigorous warm-up to get minds, fingers and toes working, courtesy of our friend Tony Chestnut at *The Learning Station*. We could base this whole article on that one activity alone, however, it's about the children...

Once warmed up and ready-to-go, our visitors were shown a clip of the superb *Ministry of Science* theatre production, which we went to see on Monday. The children shared their particular highlight of the show with all present, then set about writing a letter to tell the team at The Ministry just how fantastic we thought their show was. We have had a focus on letter writing in Creative English, and the children are getting rather good at it - however, as Kitty pointed out, even though we always put our address on our letters, nobody has actually written back to us yet!

Following snack, we moved on to our much-loved Splat Board, and showed our visitors that we can count in 2's, 5's and 10's, as well as completing a page of our Multiplication Booklet in super-quick time. We are getting faster all the time.

We really enjoyed having the parents and grandparents in our classroom - a real chance to share our learning with them. Thank you for coming!

Miss Kay, Mrs Dakin, Mrs Scoggins and Miss Syder



On Wednesday Year Five took our morning Assembly. Lucas and Tilly ably led our time together, organising hymns in advance and helping to arrange furniture. They were given the task of learning a script and presented this very fluently and confidently, which helped the whole service come together.

The shared work that Year Five presented was a traditional song from the islands of Samoa called 'O le pepe. They sang this well and presented some Samoan actions which accompanied the song too. What was most impressive was that they learned this song in only two days! Credit must also be given to Ruby, who led the school in a prayer to finish.

Following the Assembly there was an open classroom time for Year Two and Year Five. The Year Five's had a double English period, where they were writing about their role models. The focus of the lesson was on ensuring that the children were able to add necessary details to their planners, and also to write a succinct introduction.

It was such a pleasure having parents in the class, and being able to share work from these pupils was a real treat.

After English they spent period 3 with Mr Butcher in Drama. Every time the children come back from Drama they are always bouncing back with smiles on their faces, and today was no exception! Clearly Mr Butcher has some fun with them!

Mr Jensen

Nursery News.

Full steam ahead.

The Nursery children were very excited about their trip to the *East Anglia Transport Museum*, which fitted perfectly with their transport theme.

We were met at the entrance by Duncan, our expert tour guide. Duncan started by giving us our tickets which he said we needed for travelling on the train, trolley bus and tram. We started with a trip on the train. When the driver flew his flag we made train whistle noises so the train could go. The conductor was very impressed! Duncan told us we were on an old steam locomotive and he showed us how the engine had to be taken off and put back on the other end of the train so we could go back to the station.

We then walked to the tram stop and settled ourselves in our seats. The conductor asked for our tickets so he could punch a hole in them with his machine. Miss O'Mara got worried when she thought she couldn't find hers, but the conductor was kind and let her stay on the tram! When we got to the end of the track, Duncan showed us how to turn our seats around for the return journey. We learnt that the pole needs to be swung around to change the tram's direction and that it is called a 'frog'.

We then had a stop and a well-earned snack in the train café. Refreshed after our break, we then rode on the trolley bus and were treated to an extra train journey.

Thank you to Duncan, Jean and their team at the *East Anglia Transport Museum* and for opening especially for us! We learnt lots about transport from the past and how it has changed. Our favourite has to be the tram. Many children have decided they would like to come to Nursery by tram now!

Nursery Star of the Week



Nursery Star of the Week goes to Ariane, who has been a kind friend to the new children at Nursery by involving everyone in her games. Well done Ariane - Miss O'Mara and Miss Butcher are very pleased at how thoughtful she has been. Have a fantastic weekend with Dotty!

Miss O'Mara and Miss Butcher



SPORTS ROUND UP

Rugby



RUGBY

The first match of the season leaves the coaching staff in two minds. Who to pick in midfield, for example?

We started slowly and were a try behind before you had time to say “where is Henry Slade?” This, however, had the effect of tickling the sleeping dragon - never a good idea as Professor McGonigle could remind us.

Henstead stormed upfield with Savile Marcq weaving his way through for the first try. The team grew in confidence, with some good tackling and rucking on show and we were perhaps unfortunate to be two tries to one behind at the half-time interval.

Wise words from the coaching staff and enthusiastic support from the parents saw the boys in blue produce a solid team effort in the second half. There is good reason to be confident. Two tries from George augur well for starters and there is clearly considerable potential in both attack and defence

Mr Hunter

CROSS-COUNTRY

Today's Cross Country fixture will be reported in next week's newsletter.



Pedagogical Ponderings.

How would you react if someone told you to “put your socks on properly”? While this might sound trivial, and while we might automatically associate this phrase with school-aged children, this is another key phrase we can take into the business of life from the All Blacks.

“Put your socks on properly” refers to ensuring that all of the players are prepared with the right kit, and have gone through the pre-match motions correctly in order to maximise their chances of winning. The All Blacks tell us that if a sock is put on incorrectly (say for example there is some creased material which causes rubbing in the player's boot), the situation may end up causing the player to get a blister which will, in turn, cause him not to play at the very best that he can. By putting his socks on properly, he has gone over his methods with a fine tooth comb to ensure that everything has been done, and in the right manner, so he can head out to win.

At school, we too can put our socks on properly. What might that look like? Being prepared with the right equipment, for example. If the teacher asks his/her pupils to take down some notes, but the boys and girls aren't prepared with a pen, this is going to cause the loss of precious learning time that they will never get back.

Eating breakfast in the morning is another example of putting our socks on properly. By eating breakfast, we are preparing our bodies for the mental and physical endurance that they are going to need over the day. Coming to school on an empty stomach can cause not only discomfort (which will distract the young learner), but will also mean that we suffer from increased tiredness, resulting in lost focus in lessons.

So, put your socks on properly. If you are prepared, in the right place, with the right equipment, at the right time, you will be able to maximise your learning so that you can be a winner too. - *Mr Jensen*

Mascot Winners



This week's mascot winners, for best demonstrating the value Confidence, will be announced and presented in tomorrow morning's (Open Morning) Assembly.

Fruits of our Labours



Collecting some organic vegetables from our school garden during break today, for our tasty lunches.

UNIFORM SHOP

Opening Times
Tuesdays 8.30-9.30
Thursdays 3.15-4.15

Update



Stop Press...Our final total for the Macmillan Coffee Morning more than doubled to £332.25!

We are most grateful to everyone who contributed their time, baked goods or made a donation, supporting the wonderful work of Macmillan Cancer Support. Thank you.

Introducing Worzel



Receptioners have been constructing a new scarecrow today, to guard the school's vegetable garden. His name is Worzel. He will be ready for duty at the Open Morning tomorrow, so please come and say hello to our new recruit.



After announcing our new scarecrow on twitter today, we received the following joke from Harrod Horticultural (who generously helped create our vegetable garden):
"What is a scarecrow's favourite fruit?"
(Answer at foot of page.)



Answer: "Straw" berries!



@OldSchoolHstead YouTube



Excellence in Education
The Independent Association
of Prep Schools



independent
schools
council

ISA INDEPENDENT
SCHOOLS
ASSOCIATION
Accredited Member