



# The Old School Henstead

## Newsletter

Autumn Term 2015 Issue 9 20 November 2015



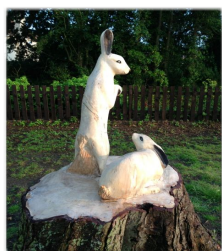
### Calendar for next week

Tuesday 24 November	1.30 U11 Swimming Gala at Langley Prep School <i>(addition to calendar)</i>
	4.15 Years 2,3 & 4 Concert
Thursday 26 November	1.15 Years 1 & 2 visit Henstead Arts & Crafts Centre <i>(addition to calendar)</i>
Friday 27 November	8.45 Advent Service in Hall
Saturday 28 November	12.00-3.00 PTFA Christmas Fayre

### Dates for your diary

Friday 11 December	9.15 Nursery Nativity
Monday 14 December	2.00 School Nativity at St Mary's Henstead
Tuesday 15 December	School Christmas Lunch
	7.00 Carol Service at St Mary's Henstead
Wednesday 16 December	Holiday Club (individual days bookable via the office)
Thursday 17 December	Holiday Club
Friday 18 December	Holiday Club

### Message from the Headmaster



As the events of recent weeks unfold across a hurting world, we have taken time at school to reflect on the need for resilience, not least when bad things happen and wickedness seems to flourish. The boys and girls are determined that this will not be the case! We shall continue to care for those who need our help, in particular the children around the world that our shoeboxes will support during the Christmas season and those who will be rescued by the East Anglian Air Ambulance, the charity that we have chosen to support during the course of this school year. Like Joseph, the dreamer, the wearer of many coloured coat, who rose from slavery to government, we must be resilient in adversity, we must be patient and we must remain secure in the faith that those who 'plotted evil against us, God turned it into good' Genesis 50:20.

Mr McKinney





# Victorian Experience.



In the words of Mrs Scoggins on Tuesday: "Children, you look as if the Magic Key is glowing and you've been sucked through the doll's house into a Victorian Adventure with Biff and Chip"...and what an adventure it was! It started the moment the children arrived at school in their fantastic costumes (thank you parents and grandparents).

However, there was no Biff or Chip to accompany us, but a washerwoman called Rosie, the tenant of Cherry Tree Cottage called Katie and a (very scary) School Master called Mr Bradfield.

On arrival in Gressenhall Farm & Workhouse, the children were soon put to work in the Workhouse with Rosie. As well as helping her in the Laundry to wash the bedding and clothing for over 400 inmates (with very stinky carbolic soap and a washing dolly) the children were sweeping floors, dusting and polishing cutlery. They even helped her set the very grand table for the Workhouse Master and his wife's dinner, using an array of cutlery, bowls, plates and side plates. The children were also shown the punishment cell for naughty children and adults!

After lunch we headed to Cherry Tree Cottage, which was home to

six married couples during Victorian times. There, we made drop scones with Katie on her coal-powered range, and set about trying to find how the inhabitants entertained themselves without TV or an x-box and where they went to the loo! A bed pan/chamber pot/"goesunder" and an outside privy later, all became clear.

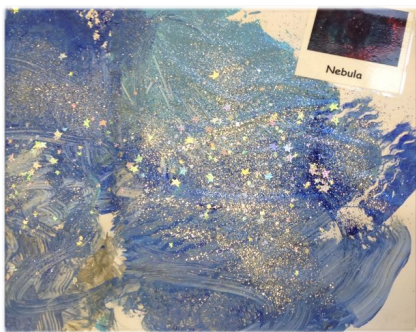
The day ended with a lesson in the School House with Mr Bradfield. First the children were invited to look, touch and compare with their current classroom, and then a very strict lesson of rote learning for times tables and the alphabet followed. Isabelle N was rigged up in finger stocks, used to stop children fidgeting, and Kitty modelled the back straightener used to stop children slouching. All the children had a go writing on slates as Mr Bradfield inspected their work, cane tucked under his arm. Fortunately, nobody had to wear the Dunce Cap.

You can watch Mr Bradfield explaining the strict rules of the Victorian classroom in this video clip: <https://youtu.be/IDpljEQsfcg>

A super day and a huge thanks to the wonderful team at Gressenhall.

*Miss Kay and Miss Syder*





# Nursery News.

## Planet Nursery Checking In!

Nursery has managed to establish radio contact for a brief time to report back their extra-terrestrial findings. Some of you may not be aware that Nursery has been on a space expedition! We visited all eight planets. Here is our report.

We first landed on Mercury - the closest planet to the sun. Fortunately all space explorers remembered their sun glasses! We found the year passed incredibly quickly as there are only eighty-eight days in it! The next stop was very brief at Venus, as we discovered it was far too hot. In fact, it is the hottest planet in our solar system.

After an ice lolly to cool down, we waved at Earth as we zoomed passed in our rocket and headed straight to Mars. We could see immediately that Mars was red in colour and again no life form to report.

We definitely couldn't miss the next planet, Jupiter, the biggest in size! After a near miss of being hit by an asteroid, we skated round the rings of Saturn and discovered it was made of ice and dust.

Next was the the blue planet Uranus. Some suspicious sightings there, but we are uncertain of the possibility of life.

Last but not least, we wrapped up warm and travelled to the coldest planet, Neptune. We decided by this time we had completed our mission and headed for home. With our new found knowledge of our solar system we have been busy making our own constellations, nebulae and other space activities. Over and out!



## Nursery Star of the Week



Nursery Star of the Week goes to Edward, who has made lots of progress in all areas of Nursery and has been particularly kind and helpful to his friends. Miss O'Mara and Miss Butcher are really pleased with Edward. Have a great weekend with Dotty! *Miss O'Mara and Miss Butcher*





# Pedagogical Ponderings.

We all know the feeling don't we? We've been running for x number of miles and the finish line is just up ahead. Our bodies are battered, we'd kill for a drink, and despite the fact we can see the finish line, it all just seems too far away... Someway, somehow, we have to find that extra drive inside us, that little bit of extra grit that will get us over the line.

In many ways, school can be like that, particularly for our senior pupils. The Autumn term is always the busiest and the most stressful for our Year 6 pupils, as this is the time when real examination pressure is on. In the coming months, our pupils will be sitting entrance examinations to get in to their first choice of Senior School, and this is no small task. No matter how much preparation goes in at school or at home, the crunch

time hits when one is sitting in that exam hall, looking down at the paper in front asking oneself, "now what?"

Despite the fact that the exams are still a couple of months away, now is the time when our senior pupils need to be honing in on all of the knowledge and skills that they have learned over their time at The Old School Henstead. The exams lie ahead, the finishing line is in sight, and it's only our pupils who hold the key to getting across. Find that extra grit to study whenever you can, make the time to go over and recap everything that you've learned, and when it feels like you can't fit any more into your brain, keep going.

*Mr Jensen*

## Programming with Lego.



### Lego Innovation Suite

This half term, Year 3 has had the opportunity to visit the Lego Innovation Suite at East Point Academy.

Under the tutelage of their S.T.E.M. ambassadors, they have learned how to assemble models and programme them to perform different movements.

During the first week they made a crocodile that can open and shut its mouth. This was followed by a drumming monkey in week two and finally a lion that sits up and roars.

The tasks required the children to work collaboratively and to follow a vast amount of intricate instructions. It

has been great to see how much they have all developed in just this short period of time.

At the end of this week's lesson they began programming a truck to move around the classroom without bumping into anything. After many, many false starts, progress was beginning to take place. I wonder how far our budding engineers will get the objects to travel next week?

*Miss Goddard*

# SPORTS ROUND UP

## Swimming



### SWIMMING

Our swimming team travelled to Ipswich last week for the Independent Schools Association (ISA) regional competition.

Whenever the yearly ISA regional swimming gala comes around, it is a great opportunity for the children to race against other ISA schools to try to reach the National swimming gala which, once again, will be held at the Olympic pool in Stratford.

After arriving earlier than any of the other 18 schools and having to deal with a delay of some 40 minutes before the start, the Henstead pupils were ready to race and they didn't disappoint.

Leading us off were the Under 9s who produced some excellent individual performances, with many of our swimmers finishing in the top five and the boys finishing in 1st place overall in their age category.

This set the tone for the morning - the Under 10s followed suit with more strong finishes from both the boys and the girls. The Under 11 races were the highlight of the day, with George Taylor winning his 50m breaststroke event. So, for the third year running, he will be off to the National Final at the London Aquatics Centre at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in London on 23 January.

This week we received the detailed results, which we are pleased to report opposite. This was as much a team event as an individual one. Out of 18 schools entered, Henstead managed a fantastic sixth place overall.

A super day was had by all with the children really showing what an asset to the school they really are - made even more special by the amount of support shown on the day by The Old School Henstead parents.

#### Overall positions:

##### Boys

U9 - 1st

U10 - 4th

U11 - 3rd

Boys overall - 3rd.

##### Girls

U9 - 10th

U10 - 6th

U11 - 16th

Girls overall - 11th

*Mr Hunter & Miss Goddard*

# New book bags!



We were pleased to launch our newly designed book bags this week!

New book bags were given to all pupils in the school. The design of the new Lower School bag is a carry briefcase style and the Upper School bag is a messenger style bag.

We hope you like these enhancements to our school uniform.

## Mascots Awards



This week's mascot winners - for best demonstrating the school value Resilience - are:

Reception Oliver

Year 1 Caleb

Year 2 Francis

Year 3 Louis

Year 4 Archie

Year 5 Ruby

Year 6 Charlotte

## Emergency Contact



We very much hope that the weather will not disrupt the daily running of the school this winter, but may I remind parents that if we are obliged to close due to wintry weather, you will be informed by text message, if possible by 7.30 am. Therefore please let Mrs Mills know urgently if your contact details have changed.

## Learning Trail



This week's Learning Trail winners - on the theme of brand logos - are: Isabelle R, Tilly and Daisy McD.

## Book Fair



Our November book fair was enthusiastically attended, with £150 worth of books earned for the school through commission on sales. Special thanks are owed to Year Six for hosting the fair and to all those in Year 5 who also assisted with running it. A special thanks goes to all members of the school community for supporting this worthwhile event.

Mr Butcher

## UNIFORM SHOP

Opening Times  
Tuesdays 8.30-9.30  
Thursdays 3.15-4.15

## PTFA

### News Extra

**Christmas Fayre Saturday 28 November 12-3pm.** Do you have any good clean cuddly toys, jam jars, cardboard tubes from toilet rolls or kitchen rolls? Also if anyone is making jams, chutneys, or other home produce, we would be grateful for donations to sell on our home produce stall.



@OldSchoolHstead

YouTube



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The Old School Henstead  
ptfa

# Christmas Fayre

Saturday 28 November 12 noon to 3pm

## Santa's Grotto

Tickets £3 including a lovely present from Father Christmas.

Wood Carving

Games Room

Face Painting

Creative Crafts

Cake Stall

Refreshments

& more!



Make Your Own Crackers

Christmas Coconut Shy

Christmas Wreaths

Christmas Cards,  
Wrapping Paper &  
Gift Tags

Crock of Gold

Lucky Dip

Raffle

Bottle Stall

Home Produce Stall

