



# The Old School Henstead

## Newsletter

Autumn Term 2016 Issue 6 21 October 2016



### Calendar for next week

Monday 24 October - Friday 4 November  
Monday 24 - Friday 28 October

Half Term  
Holiday Club (bookable via the office)

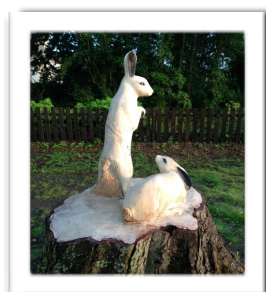
### Dates for your diary

Monday 7 November  
Friday 11 November

Saturday 12 November  
Saturday 26 November

Term Resumes  
8.50 Remembrance Service at St Mary's Church, Henstead  
Evening PTFA Bonfire & Fireworks Party  
LAMDA Examinations  
PTFA Christmas Fayre

### Message from the Headmaster



It has been an incredibly busy first half of term, not least at our Open Morning, at which we were pleased to welcome parents, friends, guests and families young and old. It was especially pleasing to welcome back former pupils and hear of their exploits. I am always delighted to hear from the Heads of senior schools how Henstead boys and girls are rising to the challenges of year Seven and beyond. This edition gives you a flavour of the teaching and learning that has flourished every day at The Old School. We trust that everyone enjoys a peaceful, purposeful and well-deserved half-term holiday.

*Mr McKinney*



# Winners of Young Poets Competition.

## Woodbridge Young Poets Competition 2016.

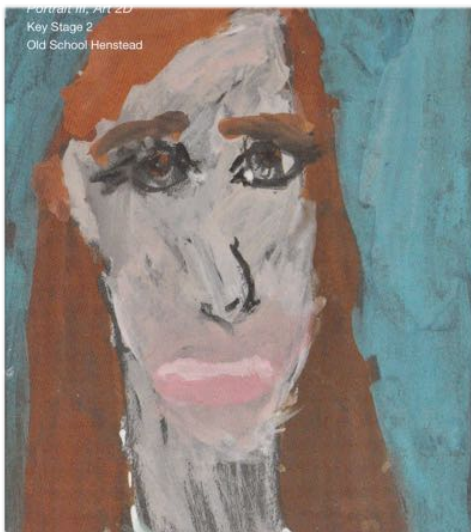


Woodbridge School received over 500 entries for the competition, from schools across Suffolk. The entries were independently judged by Ian Griffiths, former Chairman of Suffolk Poetry Society and Fred Ellis of Poetry Anglia. Both commented on the very high standard of the poems entered and the difficulty in choosing the eventual prize-winners, so huge congratulations to both Jack and Daisy on their achievement.

Jack Mc T - "I Hate Homework"- Highly Commended  
Daisy Mc D - "Pitter Patter"- Commended

Both have won a book token award, and have been invited to a prize giving ceremony and the opportunity to perform their work at the *Poetry in Aldeburgh Festival* at the Peter Pears Gallery on 4 November.

## Art Through to ISA National Finals.



Portrait III, Art 2D  
Key Stage 2  
Old School Henstead



Kitty Hardman  
Tiger, Art 2D  
Key Stage 1  
Old School Henstead



Rose Ellis  
Frozen, Art 2D  
Key Stage 2  
Old School Henstead



Matilda Williams,  
Kate Barrett  
& Honor Friesland  
Bird, 3D Group  
Key Stage 2  
Old School Henstead



Joe Hollick  
Neon Dog, 3D Individual  
Key Stage 2  
Old School Henstead



Charlie Sonn & Harvey F  
Striding Man, 3D Group  
Key Stage 2  
Old School Henstead

We are delighted to report success in this year's Independent Schools Association (ISA) eastern region art competition. Short-listed entries from The Old School Henstead can be seen above.

The independent judge this year was well-known fine artist Issam Kourbaj.

Two regional winning pieces from The Old School Henstead - "Bird", by Matilda, Kate and Honor; and "Frozen", by Rosie, have been selected to go through to the national finals on 11-12 November. The latter piece was awarded a special prize of £50 for its interpretation of the subject, and we await the results of both in the finals.

Congratulations to all.





# Early Years News.

## Diwali!



This week Nursery and Reception have been celebrating the Hindu Festival of Lights, Diwali.

We all came together for an Early years assembly today and shared the story 'Lighting a lamp' which explained the festival and the celebrations. Amelia kindly bought some traditional Indian clothing and accessories for us to wear, including delicate Bindis. She spoke to us about the outfits and asked her friends to chose their favourite colour of Bindi to wear. Next it was time to try our hand at some dancing. We used the interactive whiteboard to watch some traditional dances and the children used scarves and bells to move gracefully.



In Reception the children watched the story of Rama and Sita and talked about how the festival celebrates good triumphing over evil. They also made some beautiful Diva lamps using glass jars and tissue paper squares stuck around them.

The Nursery children also made some Diva lamps using air dry clay to mould into a bowl shape and beads to decorate them. Then once they were dry we used shimmery gold and silver colours to paint them and added a tea light. We have also been painting Rangoli Patterns and chalking our very own outside using templates for ideas.



Happy Diwali!

*Mrs Scriven, Miss O'Mara & Miss Butcher*



# Winning House Art.



We were honoured to have Lady Lexington aka Louisa Marcq as our judge for this year's inter-house art competition, on a Roald Dahl theme. An illustrator to the masses, she has recently upped her game and propelled herself out of Suffolk into the international market at Top Drawer trade fair in London's Olympia, where she not only hooked up with many Japanese buyers, but also is now negotiating a big project with the one and only Harrods.

We have captured some of the key sound bites from our judge's evaluation below.



Deben - 4th

"Thematically great...the gold ticket. The foxes - also reflecting the house mascot - are sweet. I would like to have seen more collaboration and execution."



Yare - 3rd

"Lots of individual input. It would have benefitted from a better setting, for example being lit up in the dark to show the candles."



Orwell - 2nd

"A huge amount of effort. A really good idea. Perhaps too big. Lollipops are amazing and the people's faces are a lovely touch. I love the liquorice allsorts. Needs a little more finesse next time."

## WINNER Waveney

"Beautiful, magical, delicate, detailed. All the characters are coming out of the book, with great empathy with the theme. The field is fantastic. Well done for making a great effort."





# A Japanese Tale.

A highlight for Year 5 this half term has been reading our shared text, *Kensuke's Kingdom*.

This is a book that has wildly captured our imagination and has pulled us in, so much so that we finished the book weeks in advance - we simply couldn't put it down!

Reading is something that we all love; we know that it helps us to learn, but we also love the adventures that we can take in our own minds. Closing our eyes and taking the story in is a great way to experience a book, and Mr Jensen always makes sure that he chooses good books.

*Kensuke's Kingdom* is a story about a young English boy, Michael, who is washed up on an island that is inhabited by a few monkeys and an old Japanese man, Kensuke. We experience life on the island and the awkwardness with which Michael and Kensuke begin life together. However, over time and over various challenges, they become endeared to each other and kindle a fondness for each other.

During our time reading, we drew sketches of Kensuke and also painted pictures of Japanese cherry blossom trees using black paint, pink paint and the bottom of a soft drink bottle.





# Little Red Hens.

## The Little Red Hen



On this half term, Year One has many things to be proud of. From coming into the classroom each morning independently, to coping with new mental maths and spelling tests. However, there is one particular activity that made me feel really proud of the children and that was when they performed the tale of *The Little Red Hen* to the rest of the school. Following that, they then became writers and wrote the story, using their story maps. They all tried really hard to join up their letters, doing such a fine job, that many of the children were rewarded with an AI.

Well done Year One. I am delighted with all the confidence and effort that you have all put into this half term.

*Ms Thomson*

# Pumpkin Patch.

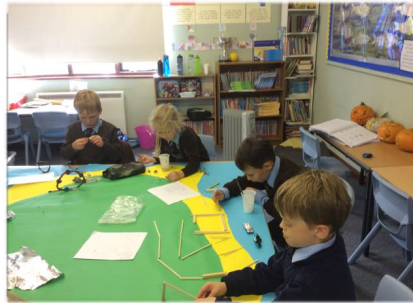
We arrived to a pumpkin-lit Show and Tell on Thursday morning and heard about how the Junior School Arts and Crafts trio have been continuing with the Hallowe'en theme up to the end of term. George chose Red, the well known Angry Bird to carve into his pumpkin, whilst Charlotte chose a more traditional upside down bat, and Bertie, more traditional still, a very, very scary Jack o' Lantern face. The children selected the stencils and cut them out, then transferred them to the pumpkin - this was a bit tricky as the designs were intricate. They did have help carving them, as sharp knives need careful supervision.

As they were such fun to make, and looked so good in the classroom, Johnny decided to bring in a blue, home-grown pumpkin he had carved. Unfortunately he dropped it down the stairs on the morning he brought it in, but I am pleased to say it survived the fall reasonably well (and Smashed Pumpkin should really be the next big thing). Marli, also wanting in on the action, brought in another very scary face he carved at home too. This resulted in a fine array of Year 2 pumpkins, with only one message left to say: Trick or treat!

*Miss Kay*



# Île de Henstead.



One of this term's highlights was our final Art lesson on Wednesday. It was a true culmination of work completed throughout this term on our seaside topic. The children designed their own 3D map of a touristy, seaside island and all had plenty of amenities to add. James suggested pier, a dune buggy track on sand, a car park, motorbike track in the forest and a fruit shop. Bertie was all about designing a majestic castle for the middle of the island and sea defences along the coast, as well as remembering to build an essential loo block! He also slipped in a 'fish and chip shop cinema' as a tourist attraction. George busied himself with bumper cars, an ice cream shop - selling chocolate and bubblegum flavours - a fish and chip shop and sea defence rocks. Charlotte contributed an ice cream parlour (cookie dough), racing track, a shop selling inflatables, a lighthouse, bus stop, cafe, skate park and a sunbathing area on the beach. Phillip was thinking

about safety and provided a beach complete with lifeguards and safe-swimming flags, an ice cream shop (Mr Whippy) and car park. Caleb planned an ice cream shop (bubblegum), roller skating rink, car park, toilet block and fishing area on the pier. Johnny built an amusement arcade with a game called Skeleton Man, a toy shop, pier, lighthouse and car park. Marli designed a water clock to rival the one on the pier at Southwold, a pumpkin shop, a Ghost Train ride and a forest area. Mr Butcher's heart was in a Henstead style Eden Project whilst Miss Kay added a Ferris Wheel to denote a fun fair which left Yarmouth's 'Pleasure Beach' standing. We all decided we would definitely like to holiday there (or go on a school trip in the very least!)

*Miss Kay and Mr Butcher*





# Adventures in Maths & Literature.



Year 4 has had an exciting and busy start to the school year. One of the highlights so far has been our outdoor mathematics lessons. These involved the pupils moving around the field to find clues and answer the mathematical equations.

However, the class' main highlight this term has been based around our shared reading book, *'The Firework Maker's Daughter'* written by Philip Pullman. This book is about a young girl whose dream is to become a firework maker. She goes on many exciting and dangerous adventures and ends up saving her father's life by winning a fireworks display competition. The pupils have gained much knowledge around descriptive writing and have learnt how to use adjectives, verbs and onomatopoeia effectively. This week they all finished writing some powerful descriptions of their own fireworks displays accompanied by an illustration.

I am very proud of all of the hard work they have put into their writing this term and I look forward to the adventures we may get up to after the break. Keep up the fantastic work Year 4!

Mrs Jensen





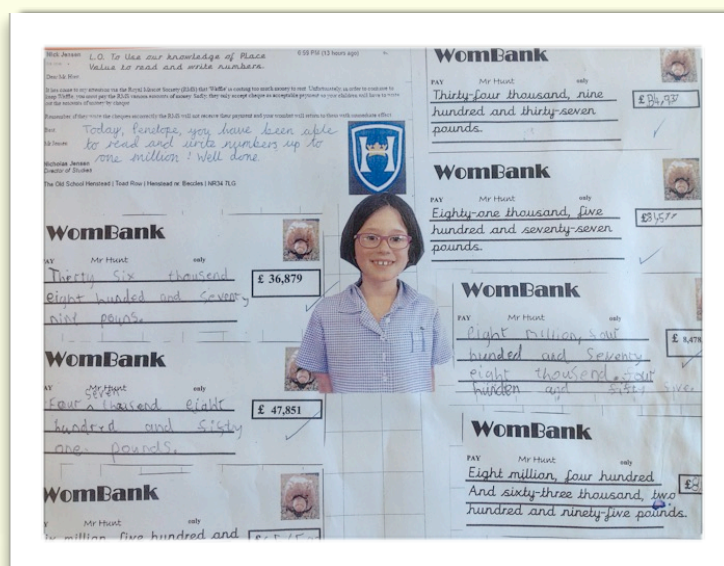
# Wombat Bank.



Certainly my favourite moment of the term has been a specific maths lesson during the early moments of the term. Indeed, the activity was quite simple, to read and write numbers up to 1,000, both in words and numerals. To make it a little bit more interesting, however, I told the children that their beloved class mascot, Waffle, had been taken away by the 'Mascot Society' due to being too expensive to rent.

In order to claim him back the children were required to write out a series of cheques with the traditional style and format. The children really engaged with the lesson and, by the end of the lesson, had reached numbers up to the millions! I was very impressed by their level of confidence tackling such large numbers and really showing a conscientious attitude to their own work and study by continuously challenging themselves. Fortunately, due to the accuracy of their work, they did indeed reclaim Waffle from the nasty Mascot Society.

Mr Hunt



# Committed to success.

Year Six

The journey has been a hectic one for Year Six right from the beginning of term and a mixture of excitement and uncertainty has quickly been replaced with determined application. Our most senior pupils have settled and taken on the responsibilities allocated to them with a clear awareness of the needs of others. As we reach the halfway mark the highlight for me is plural rather than singular. Every single member of Year Six has taken considerable strides in terms of confidence and Prefects have led from the front. The commitment to academic progress is also clear to see, as illustrated by the success of our two poets in the Suffolk poetry competition and by all those who are working in preparation for senior school entrance examinations. Well done and keep it up!

*Miss Clifton*



## Pedagogical Ponderings

### Which Country Has the Cleverest Students?

The BBC published an interesting article this week titled *Which Country Really Has the Cleverest Students?* In the article (which can be viewed on the BBC Education website), education correspondent Sean Coughlan has collected information from the OECD and QS World University Rankings. The findings are interesting. If you were to be asked “which country has the cleverest students?” what would you say? The USA, surely, with MIT and Harvard among the most famous names? Or the UK perhaps, home to Oxford and Cambridge Universities?

Well, the evidence seems to come down to how exactly you rank ‘cleverness’ and at what age you research. When assuming that you are viewing conventional high performing universities, the top performers are:

1. Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
2. Stanford University
3. Harvard University
4. University of Cambridge
5. California Institute of Technology (Caltech)
6. University of Oxford
7. University College London
8. ETH Zurich
9. Imperial College London
10. University of Chicago

However, the OECD paints a different picture. When looking across the performance of the whole country (as opposed to solely the performance of a university individually), unless you’re clued-up in education, you’ll be surprised to see the results:

1. Japan
2. Finland
3. Netherlands
4. Australia
5. Norway
6. Belgium
7. New Zealand
8. England
9. United States
10. Czech Republic

One important lesson I’ve learned over my time as a teacher is that there is far more involved in educating students than ‘making them smart.’ There needs to be a balance in education between ‘clever’ and ‘skilled.’ They are different things, and I think it’s something that, at the primary level, we get right here at The Old School Henstead.

*Mr Jensen*



# Mascot Winners.

Last week's Mascot Winners, presented with their mascots at Saturday's assembly were as follows:



- Reception: Christabel - for confidence in making new friends at school.  
Year One: Jack D - for confidence in sounding out words.  
Year Two: Phillip - for confident reading.  
Year Three: Francis - for a confident attitude to a difficult writing challenge.  
Year Four: Jack L - for confidence and assertiveness in hockey and in all of his subjects.  
Year Five: Rachael - showing confidence in tackling difficult maths questions that have extended her learning.  
Year Six: Savile - for confident reading in a group and 100% on spelling test.

## Golf Day



We were delighted to welcome a number of parents and friends to our Golf Day at Rookery Park Golf Club last Saturday after the Open Morning. As predicted our own Mr Hunter was the overall winner!

## New Winter Menus



Our new winter menus starting after half term will be available to view on our website soon (over half term), so that you can enjoy a preview of the delicious dishes that await your children on their return.

## Bags2School



Thank you to everyone who contributed to today's Bags2School collection. We appreciate your support in fundraising for our PTFA.

## UNIFORM SHOP

Opening Times  
(term time)

Tuesdays 8.15-9.15  
Thursdays 3.15-4.15

## 'Flu Vaccination Date

The 'flu vaccination session for children in Years 1-3, whose parents have submitted consent forms, is scheduled to take place on Thursday 17 November in the morning.

Please ensure that you return your consent forms by the start of term if you wish your child to be included.

## PTFA

News Extra

**Next PTFA Meeting**  
Monday 7 November 7.30pm  
at The Three Horseshoes at North Cove. We welcome the support of parents and grandparents old and new. Come and see what we're about. We look forward to meeting you.

**Bonfire Night & Fireworks**  
Friday 11 November. Get ready for one of the highlights of the term. Hand your booking forms and payment for tickets in at the office as soon as possible. Tickets: Adult £5 Child £3



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