



# The Old School Henstead

## Newsletter

Autumn Term 2015 Issue 10 27 November 2015



### Calendar for next week

Tuesday 1 December 9.00 Year 2 visits Time & Tide Museum  
Wednesday 2 December 2.00 U11 Rugby v Langley Prep (A)  
Friday 4 December Nursery visits Post Office

### 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  
Term Ends  
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



Not a week goes by without the need for resilience being underlined by the happenings in an increasingly chaotic world around us. The boys and girls have considered how such resilience anchors us as a school, what it means to be part of an educational tradition that is proud of its heritage, to belong to this community, past present and future. We are very much part of the Parish too, in more ways than being glad to host the meetings of the Parish Council! We celebrated the beginning of Advent today, thinking of the community that the Advent crown represents, whilst looking forward to the season ahead and preparing for the arrival of the Infant King. There certainly have been preparations aplenty and excited anticipation of the Christmas Fayre. I am most grateful to the PTFA, the staff, children and many guests that have contributed so much to make it such a special event. Gaudete!

*Mr McKinney*



Some of the many performers at Tuesday's concert - see Page 2 for the full report.

# What a performance!



We were treated to a wonderfully varied concert on Tuesday from pupils in Years Two to Four. There were many memorable performances and all the children impressed with their confidence and the delight they showed in sharing their talents.

## Pianists

Ewan's *Stroke of Midnight* was precise and accurate, Harry S had prepared his piece with great care and Harry L showed good concentration in his *Gavotte* as he begins to play with hands together. Daisy W, who has only recently started lessons, gave us a note perfect performance of *Away in a Manger*. Ebony's sensitive performance of *The Woodchuck* demonstrated a growing confidence. Nathan showed how he has mastered the correct hand position in *We Three Kings* and Imogen's poise at the keyboard was impressive. Thomas R's strongly rhythmic *Smooth and Crunchy*, and Addison's confident and accurate theme from the *Surprise Symphony* completed the list of pianists.

## Singers

It was so good to hear such natural singing from every one of the singers.

Rachael, who was quite apprehensive before the event,

determinedly overcame her nerves and sang *Tomorrow* from *Annie* very tunefully. Polly continues to grow in stature as a performer, showing impressive breath control in *Once upon a Dream*. Skye is gaining confidence and *Santa Claus is Comin' to Town* was very sweetly sung. Sophia is another performer who struggles with nerves and it is lovely to see her growing ever more confident with each performance. Tabatha was one of the few performers who managed a lovely smile after her gentle performance of *There's a Place*. Emily was another singer who smiled, sharing a great sense of joy in her singing of *Bare Necessities*.

## Brass

Matthew H and Ewan are now playing in harmony and their three pieces, accompanied by Mr Beer on the trombone, were bold, confident and full of fun.

## Guitar

Kitty gave us the theme from *Grieg's Morning* on her wonderful red guitar, showing confidence and familiarity with a difficult instrument for such small fingers.

## Violinists

Rebecca and Tabatha used the length of the bow well, showed good

intonation as well as a real sense of ensemble, putting together the tap dancing and violin playing sections of their performance seamlessly.

Harry D has only just started violin lessons, but obviously enjoyed demonstrating how much he has already learnt.

## Flautists

It is good to see Polly and Olivia adding flute to their repertoire. *Largo* and *Silent Night* were played with a gentle sensitivity and excellent tuning.

## Drummers

Nathan gave a highly rhythmic performance of *Zee*, Thomas W's performance of *Full Rudder* was most accomplished and, although Isabelle N was a little overcome with the occasion, she was more than able to show us that she has mastered the intricacies of co-ordinating both hands and feet.

My thanks to the music teachers for all their professionalism and dedication to their pupils, and especially to Mrs Clayton for giving her time to accompany so many of the performances.

Miss Sindall



# Crafty work.



Excitedly, Years One and Two headed off to the Henstead Arts and Craft Centre on Thursday, to create Ella and Snowy, our class mascots.

Year Two started the afternoon sitting in The Shed courtyard, drinking delicious hot chocolate, followed by a choice between Victoria sponge or chocolate cake!

Meanwhile, Year One pupils were busy creating their own colourful versions of Ella the elephant, using the technique, decopatch.

After eating the scrumptious cake, Year One and Two swapped, with Snowy the snow leopard modelling for Year Two.

Our mascots have been left to dry out, but they will be returned to their new owners next week. We can't wait to see how they turn out.

A huge thanks to Barbara for organising such a fun art activity and also to Ellen, at The Shed, for the "best cake ever!" What a treat for us all.

*Ms Thomson, Mrs Scoggins and Mrs Dakin*





# Nursery News.

## Happy Thanksgiving!

On Thursday Nursery celebrated Thanksgiving.

At circle time we learnt that Thanksgiving began when the pilgrims arrived in America and gave thanks by eating a big feast. One of the things eaten at Thanksgiving is turkey, so we made our own turkeys! We drew round our hands to make the shape of turkey feathers. We decorated the turkeys with beaks, googly eyes and feathers. Gobble gobble!

We also made pies and cakes with pumpkin flavoured play dough, which smelt delicious. Ariane told us about how her family celebrate Thanksgiving. She said they have a big meal together with family and friends. She also brought us in some pumpkin pies for us to try. They were yummy! Thank you to Ariane and her family for letting us share Thanksgiving with you!

We have really enjoyed learning about American culture and traditions. Happy Thanksgiving everyone.



## Nursery Star of the Week



Nursery Star of the Week goes to Amelia, who has been a really kind friend at Nursery and been sharing her toys. Have a wonderful time with Dotty, Amelia, and remember to brush her teeth. *Miss O'Mara and Miss Butcher*





# Pedagogical Ponderings.

I think we're pretty fortunate to be a part of the community at The Old School Henstead. Not only do we have the privilege of being involved in such a small and tight-knit community, but we as teachers get to know our pupils in such depth that we very quickly learn what makes them tick, and how to keep them on track with their learning. Despite there being some evidential research out there which claims that small class sizes don't actually affect children's learning, common sense suggests that, at a school like ours, each teacher gets to spend a greater amount of one-on-one time with each student. As an example, earlier this year I was teaching with a class of 29 pupils. Over the course of one hour's learning, I would get an average of 2.06 minutes to work with each child. Contrast that to life at The Old School Henstead. Due to the structure of our

curriculum, in one hour of learning I get to spend much longer with each child individually – and am able to ensure that it is quality time. Over the course of a day at The Old School Henstead, thanks to the structure of the timetable, the potential time for individual tuition with each child is even greater. These figures overwhelmingly sway in favour of our children at Henstead and I for one feel that it is a privilege and a pleasure to teach in such a school. Not only this, but it is yet another reason to suggest why our children have such a step-up in life, and why investing in The Old School Henstead is a wise and worthwhile decision.

*Mr Jensen*

## Surprise from clever Granny.



Yesterday Year Two pupils arrived at school to be met with an unexpected surprise. On every desk lay a handmade advent calendar - each one a different design and patchwork of festive fabrics - stitched by Brayden's clever Granny. There were even more advent calendars in the classroom than the camera could capture in a single shot!

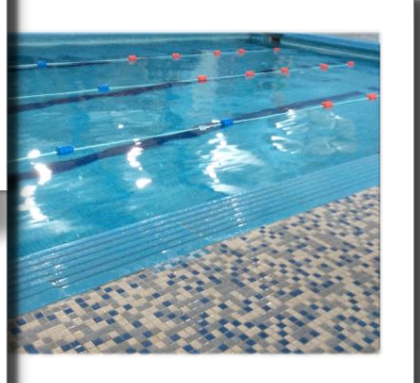
And in every pocket of the calendar there was a hidden treat, including the exact quantity of extra ones for brothers and sisters in each family.

One can only imagine that these stunning calendars must have taken hundreds of pain-staking hours of love and care to make, and we would like to thank Brayden's Granny for her thoughtfulness and generosity.

We're looking forward to starting the countdown to Christmas Day.

# SPORTS ROUND UP

## Hockey & Swimming



### HOCKEY

Under 11 Match v Saint Felix

On Friday afternoon we played host to Saint Felix in an eagerly anticipated match. I had high hopes going into the match, knowing that I had a bunch of girls who never give anything but their best, but sport is a funny business and you can never tell.....

So, they kept us waiting, and waiting, and waiting a little longer, until they finally got the ball over the opposition's goal line. In a match that should have seen our girls 3 up at the end of the first quarter, we were half way through the fourth before Ruby finally scored a much deserved match winner.

From the first hit of the ball, the girl's intentions were clear. They were there to win. Each and every ball was fought for, and if they were not on the ball, they were constantly running into space. Not that they had it all their own way, there were several occasions when my heart pumped a little too fast as Saint Felix broke through our defence. In the end though, the best team won, and never has such a cry of relief been heard from our fantastic supporters.

My upmost congratulations to the girls on their win. You should be exceedingly proud of yourselves. But next time, as a favour to me, don't leave it so late in the game!

Many thanks as always to those parents who came to support and to those that provided the wonderful tea.

*Miss Goddard*

### SWIMMING

The second swimming gala of the year took place earlier this week at Langley Prep, with eight pupils from Years 5 and 6 taking part.

A shorter than usual pool meant the Henstead pupils found it harder to get into their stride.

Some valiant efforts and close finishes resulted in Henstead often pushed out into 3rd place. However this didn't dampen our spirits, as we kept plugging away throughout the gala.

A hard fought afternoon's work, with many of the Henstead team able to look forward to next year's event and hopefully more medals.

Thank you to all the parents who turned out in numbers and fine voices to cheer us on throughout the afternoon.

*Mr Hunter*



# Christmas Lunch

Our school Christmas lunch will be held on Tuesday 15 December, the last day of term. Pupils can look forward to this delicious menu. Parents of pupils who usually bring packed lunches, but would prefer their children to partake in this traditional Christmas lunch on that day, must notify their form teacher or tutor to ensure they are catered for.

## Traditional Roast Turkey

served with sage & onion stuffing, pigs in blankets, roast potatoes, Yorkshire pudding, roast parsnips, baton carrots, peas and cranberry sauce

## Chocolate Yule Log served with Cream

## Mini Mince Pies

Allergy information: contains gluten (wheat), celery, eggs, milk & mustard.

## Mascots Awards



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

Reception Amelie

Year 1 Charlotte

Year 2 Imogen F-T

Year 3 Matilda

Year 4 Polly

Year 5 Lily

Year 6 Isabelle

## Christmas Party



The PTFA will host a Christmas Party (including disco!) on Friday 11 December, from 2.30 to 4.30pm, for all pupils in Reception through to Year Six. The PTFA is generously organising this event free of charge for all pupils. Light refreshments will be provided.

## Learning Trail



This week's Learning Trail winners - on the theme of capital cities - are: Honor, Skye and Ebony.

## Pupils help fundraise



Several of Mrs Clayton's Henstead pupils took part in a fundraising concert for humanitarian aid for a school in Morocco, where the visiting students will build important facilities. They will also be tree planting and trekking for a week on the edge of the Sahara desert. Concert participants included Tom R, Polly and Isabelle R. Mrs. Clayton organised the concert on Sunday at Magdalen Way Methodist Church in Gorleston.

Tom played *Smooth & Crunchy* on the piano, Polly sang *Once upon a Dream* from the musical *Jekyll & Hyde*; Isabelle played *Mexican March* on the piano and also sang *Over the Rainbow* from the *The Wizard of Oz*. The students joined together with the church choir to sing *Let the River Run* at the end of the concert.

The concert raised £140 towards the fund.

## PTFA

### News Extra

**Christmas Fayre Saturday 28 November 12-3pm.**

**Christmas Party Friday 11 December, 2.30-4.30pm, including disco and light refreshments. Hosted free of charge by the PTFA for all pupils in Reception through to Year Six.**



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The Old School Henstead  
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# 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

