



The Old School Henstead

Newsletter

Summer Term 2017 Issue 1 28 April 2017



Calendar for next week

Monday 1 May
Wednesday 3 May
Friday 5 May

Bank Holiday (School Closed)
1.30 Beccles Librarian visits Nursery
School Council Elections

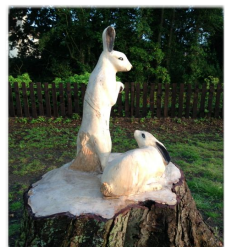
Dates for your diary

Friday 12 May
Friday 19 May
Friday 26 May

9.15-10:50 Open Classrooms
10.00 Reception visit to Pig Farm (addition to calendar)
The Henstead Hike in aid of a Defibrillator for the School & Henstead Village
9.45 Open Morning, followed by the Summer Fayre

Saturday 24 June

Message from the Headmaster



I have been delighted to read of the exploits of our boys and girls during the course of this week. It is a credit to all those involved in the planning of such activities and I am most grateful to the staff who have given so freely of their time to allow Henstead pupils to flourish through outdoor learning. Such learning sums up the values that we believe are part and parcel of what makes our school special - none better than the achievements of our year Six, of which you may read later in this newsletter. Well done to them all!

Mr McKinney

A Week of Adventures & Challenges.

As we reach the end of Trips Week, this week's newsletter gives a roundup of the various challenges and activities that were experienced by Reception through to Year Six.



Success in Snowdonia.

Year Six



Sunday at 7.30 and all were board the spangly new Year Six Mobile - all mod cons. Progress was swift and we were almost past the banks of the Cam when the initial question of arrival time in Snowdonia was posed. We were soon enjoying the scenic splendour of the Llangollen valley and the peaks of Snowdonia could occasionally be glimpsed in the distance, as a breezy fresh day scudded the cloud cover along.

A bit of local enquiry informed the final few miles and it was certainly worth the wait. Our accommodation had superb views over Llanberis lake and up over the Clogwyn massif to the summit of Snowdon itself. A pleasant stroll on the other side of the valley before supper gave us a feel for the history of the place, as we strolled through the abandoned slate quarries that once were the mainstay industry of the region. The grime encrusted miner's hats have long since been replaced by lightweight climbing helmets, the latter-day hawsers for the brightly coloured ropes of modern-day ascensionists. We learnt that climbing slate was a serious undertaking for veteran and novice alike! A tasty supper, a briefing on the timings for the morning and so to bed.

Monday

A morning on which the weather forecast predicted everything from drizzle to snow showers! It in no manner dampened the enthusiasm of the team as we had donned wetsuits, wellingtons, fleeces, cagoules, buoyancy aids and helmets for gorge scrambling. A drive along the coast and past the spectacular Conwy Castle brought us to the Afon Ddu Gorge. It was a challenging course amidst stunning scenery and one in which the boys and girls worked together brilliantly, grew in confidence and finished with the plunge pool at the top of the waterfall. The boys and girls really enjoyed getting to know Sophie, our instructor, who we were delighted to be working with again this year.



Success in Snowdonia.

Year Six



Tuesday

Underground, overground was the mantra today as Year Six learnt about the traditions of the Welsh slate mining industry at first hand. A sunny, fresh morning as we ascended through the wooded hills, donning head torches and helmets together with the climbing gear that was becoming familiar to our young outdoor enthusiasts. There were rubber boats to cross flooded caverns, klettersteig style scrambling up and over waterfalls and excavated shafts. There was even a chance to sample lunch illuminated by candlepower, as the miners of the Victorian era would have had on the brims of their hats as the only source of light as they toiled six long days a week. It was a new experience also to be exposed to total darkness when the lights went out! A final climb out of the tier of the mine nearest the surface (our seventh of the day) and a scramble up the hillside from the gates of the mine gave a fitting climax to an inspiring day.



Wednesday

Looking up to the Snowdon massif confirmed that there was a dusting of snow, but that the cloud ceiling was high, as was the visibility on a bright and sunny morning. A mountain walk to the summit of the highest peak in Wales (3,560 ft.) is a serious undertaking for any group in any weather. Year Six tackled the challenge cheerfully and positively, listened to their instructors and encouraged each other at every turn.



The success of the expedition did them great credit and was one of the highlights of their final year, for it required all of our values. Clear conditions allowed us to form our own opinion of the recent poll placing the view from the summit as the most impressive in the United Kingdom. It was certainly spectacular!



Success in Snowdonia.

Year Six



Thursday

Our final morning activities began with some reorganisation of equipment and some early packing, as it was to be a long day. The boys and girls mastered both - always a good sign as the transition to senior school pupils looms into view, before heading off to the Blaenau-Ffestiniog slate quarries and perhaps the ultimate challenge of the week.

The via ferrata and climbing challenges of Zip World Caverns is a remarkable, uniquely exhilarating and atmospheric underground adventure that has been inaccessible for nearly 200 years, with an underground course of giant former slate workings, tunnels, bridges, ascents and descents by zip wire. Over four hours later we emerged, exhilarated and triumphant, having met our fears on exposed traverses, finishing with the tightrope and the stairway to heaven - a steep climb up to a dizzying platform for the final zip wire descent. Supper in Llandudno to celebrate the end of a fantastic week, followed by *Beauty and the Beast* at the cinema, accompanied by smuggled in haribo.



Friday

Friday offered time during the journey home to reflect on the challenges and achievements of the week.

The mascot for the week is awarded to the whole team and rightly so. We have every reason to be proud of them.

Mr McKinney, Mr Hunter & Ms Thomson



Reaching new heights.



Year Five had a tremendously successful time away at Kingswood West Runton. This residential trip is a perfect opportunity to push oneself and this is exactly what the Year 5s did. With an emphasis this year on **leading and supporting through challenge and risk**, every child found themselves, at one time or another, in an unfamiliar situation. Whether at the top of a rock climbing wall, behind the wheel of a go-kart or balancing carefully at the top of a telegraph pole (before their leap of faith), each of the children made the conscious decision to go just a little further than they thought they could. Particular mention must be made to Rachael for not only climbing the leap of faith once, but twice.

Most moving were the opportunities for discussion around leadership. It quickly became apparent that the Year 5s are an incredibly mature group of pupils who appear ready to take on the challenge of Year 6 and beyond. They each contributed to discussions about what leadership is, how it looks in and out of school, and how they can apply their personal styles of leading. Having such a tight-knit group of pupils meant that each one of us could be honest about our strengths and our weaknesses, and these were celebrated. Mr McKinney will have a hard decision ahead of him thinking towards prefectship for next year!

Thanks to the pupils for challenging themselves in such a positive manner, and for their exemplary behaviour. Each pupil demonstrated exactly the sort of behaviour we expect from children at The Old School Henstead, and every instructor that spent time with our group commented on the positive impression each of the pupils had made. This is something of which they and their families can be extremely proud.

Mr Jensen



Down on the Farm.



Despite the grey, cloudy skies, Year 3 had a wonderful day during their visit to Jimmy's Farm on Thursday. To begin, our enthused pond dippers, armed only with a net and hope, delicately fished out whatever they could find. Using the provided magnifying equipment and classification grids, the children were able to identify all of their catches after trying to persuade their mini-beasts to enter a small receptacle.



After lunch and feeding the animals their lunch, the children then ventured on to spot some butterflies in the butterfly den. The excited gasps as they spotted new colours and combinations fluttering by was contagious!

Shortly after, the children had the opportunity to participate in some den building. Being particularly proficient at working in teams, the children created some wonderful dens. It was an exciting day, full of lots of enthusiasm and giggles.

Mr Hunt



In the Wilderness.



Year Four had a very successful time at the Wardens Centre. Thankfully, we managed to dodge most of the bad weather and had settled conditions for most of the time we were away. Our time began with our combined shopping trip to a supermarket where we had to buy all the food necessary to feed us while we were away. We were split into three groups and had to purchase food for breakfast, lunch and dinner. We shopped well and each group managed to come in under budget!



When we arrived at the Wardens Centre we chose our own campsites and put up our tents. Some of us learned the hard way that sleeping on a mound is not ideal. Once set up, we walked along the beach past Sizewell B and had lunch next to the woods at Kenton Hills. We then split into 2 groups: boys and girls. We were on an orienteering mission to find different numbered letters that had been placed around the woods in different places. Using a map, we had to locate and record each letter so that we could form a final word at the end. The letters were: M S L A R W L A O H M. Can you work it out?



That evening we returned to Wardens Centre and had some free time before crafting and cooking our pizzas. Before bedtime, we had some evening activities organised by Mrs Jensen, and toasted marshmallows on the camp fire. We all slept well outside in our tents and to the surprise of Mr and Mrs Jensen none of us woke up until after 6.00am! In the morning we had breakfast, put away our tents, went down to the beach and then headed to Thorpeness for boating on Thorpeness Mere. Boating was great and we found out very quickly that it looks easier than it actually is. We had an ice cream and lunch down at the beach before heading back to school.

Mr & Mrs Jensen



Junior Field Scientists.

Lower School



Phantoms on the Fens

Despite dire meteorological predictions, Year 2, Year 1 and Reception had a most successful day at Suffolk Wildlife Trust's reserve at Carlton Marshes. Our dauntless minibeast hunters began their day in the wooded area, where they created their 'journey sticks', a canny combination of sticks and rubber bands to which they could attach a collection of narrative mementos of their day. This was followed by an enthusiastic teamwork exercise involving guiding a blindfolded participant using clear and concise verbal instructions to reach a specific tree some distance ahead. We also had to create mud face collages.

Our next session involved finding a varied diet for a very hungry caterpillar and then on to a classic 'dyke dipping' opportunity resulting in the capture of some prime specimens of the phantom midge larva and more daphnia than you could shake a net at.

Finally, after lunch, a plethora of rotting logs gave up their multi-legged inhabitants to the careful scrutiny of the roaming teams, ever mindful of the clues to be attached to their journey sticks. It was an enjoyable and informative day with some promising ideas for further work at school.

Mr Butcher



Mascot Awards.

This half term we focus on our penultimate school value Teamwork and this week's mascots were awarded as follows:

Reception - Christabel - for being a great team player at Carlton Marshes

Year 1 - Lola - for expert and patient guidance of her partner through during the blindfold game whilst at Carlton Marshes

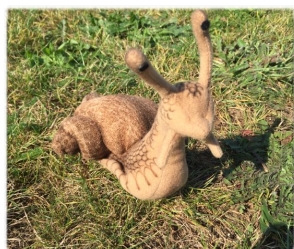
Year 2 - Claleb - for working with younger children at Carlton Marshes and being a wonderful role model

Year 3 - Darcey - for outstanding teamwork and leadership whilst visiting Jimmy's Farm

Year 4 - Rebecca - for excellent teamwork throughout the week

Year 5 - Rachael - for demonstrating consistent teamwork in every situation at Kingswood

Year 6 - entire year - for illustrating all the school values this week.



Pony Club



We are delighted to launch The Old School Henstead Pony Club, starting on Friday 5 May, for all those interested in horses and riding, who want to learn and have fun in a safe and caring environment.

PTFA

News Extra

Next Meeting Monday 8 May 7pm Three Horse Shoes

Summer Fayre Saturday 24 June 12:00-3:00pm

Summer Party Saturday 8 July. Save the date! Early Bird tickets will be on sale next week (following Bank Holiday)

Brayden's Fundraiser



Brayden was very poorly 3 years ago and the Sick Children's Trust provided accommodation on site at Addenbrookes Hospital for his very grateful Mum and Dad.

Please join Brayden at Hulver Village Hall to help raise funds for the Sick Children's Trust on:
Sunday 14 May at 2.00pm.

Free Entry

Cake

Tea & Coffee

Raffle

Crafts

Lucky Dip

Tombola

Guess How Many Sweets!

Star of the Week



Nursery Star of the Week goes to Harley, who is becoming more independent. Well done Harley, Miss O'Mara and Miss Butcher are really pleased. Have a great weekend with Sparky!

UNIFORM SHOP

Opening Times
Tuesday 8.15-9.15
Thursdays 3.15-4.15



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